

T H E
EMBARRASSED LOVER

OR, THE

H I S T O R Y

O F

HENRY CAREY, ESQ.

A N D T H E

Hon. Miss CECILIA NEVILLE.

In a SERIES of LETTERS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

V O L. I.

L O N D O N:

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MDCCLXXV.

LETTER I.

TO

MISS EMILIA CLIFFORD.

MAY 3.

YOU ask me, my dear sister, how I spend my time here; I assure you, in the most agreeable manner imaginable. Neville Place is situated, perhaps, in the most desirable spot in the kingdom; at least to me it appears so.—Here are all the beautiful scenes that woods, lawns, and streams can afford; all that *variety of pleasure, situate in hill and dale*, which the poet—

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'says that earth derives from heaven : I know not whence he pretended to draw his authority ; but as far as a woman can judge, a whole globe consisting of nothing but one vast boundless plain, would afford but an insipid satisfaction. Variety is the essence of delight, and it is therefore, I suppose, that our sex, who are on all hands allowed to be competent judges of pleasure, are so much taken with it.

But to return.—The house which Sir John's father rebuilt, is a structure in which elegance and simplicity seem to vie with each other. It is situate almost on the brow of a gently rising hill, with a lofty wood behind, which shelters it from the northern wind, while the trees rising gradually one above another in a semicircular direction, form a kind of sylvan theatre. In front, there is a long walk shaded by trees, which by an easy ascent leads up to this charming mansion.

Sir

Sir John, is one of those who joins an easy elegance of manners to all the open freedom of British hospitality. Most happy in a country life, he is yet qualified to shine in courts or camps, nor does he through peevishness or affectation pretend to despise the pleasures of life, or refuse occasionally to visit the metropolis, though neither his age nor disposition render it so agreeable to him as to those who take up their residence in that scene of mingled splendour and confusion.

His Lady, who appears above ten years younger than himself, yet married him for love, and at this time entertains the most tender affection for him. I need not tell you that they have one daughter, the fair Cecilia, but as you have never seen this young beauty, you will not be displeased if I attempt to describe her. Women, you know, my dear, are seldom partial in favour of their own sex in these matters, and indeed, I have often

B 2

found

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found a hundred faults with those whom the men were pleased to call beauties ; but in justice to the Baronet's daughter, I must confess that is not the case. She is both the men's and the women's beauty ; both seem alike to admire her ; nor do I at present know one of the latter that has shewn any signs of entertaining what is properly called *envy* against her.

This lady is now only in her seventeenth year, yet I protest, Emily, she is far beyond your sister, who has been seven good years more, in seriousness of deportment. At the same time there is not the least either of the *rigid* or the *affected* in her behaviour, which though generally grave, is never severe, and always proves pleasing and engaging. — As to her person, she is at present neither tall nor short, but rather inclinable to the former than the latter. Her face is a fine oval, in which are described some of the most delicate features in the world. The
E. v.

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lily and the rose vie in her cheek, her blue eyes are at the same time soft and sensible, and shine with a heavenly lustre ; her hair and eye-brows are nearly of the colour of the finest and clearest amber. Her skin is fair and clear, her bosom an expanse of snow ; and her shape is formed with the most exact symmetry of proportion. Her temper and disposition are most amiable, and her parents have taken care to add by education every thing which can make her a model of perfection. In short, Emily, were I a man, I should certainly at this instant be dying for the fair Cecilia.

I doubt not but you are ready to ask whether this young beauty, such as I have described her, has not any suitors. She has already had several ; but as none of them were agreeable to her, and as she expressed an unaffected desire of living single at present, her parents have ceased to press her upon

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the subject of matrimony. Good Girl ! her youth is one objection. This is very considerate ; but I believe it is the case with few of her sex. You know one, Emily, who would have become a wife at her years, had it not been for the most perfidious of men. But this is rather a melancholy subject, and I hate any thing that may make me melancholy. I am sure, I find nothing tending that way at Neville Place. All here is joy, yet all is innocence. Can there be a better foundation for one than what arises from the other ?

But I am summoned from my closet to attend company. The circle brightens—O Emily ! I have just time to tell you, a chaise and four, out of which alights, I know not who, but, by the coronet, some nobleman, in a habit too rich to describe. And next a plain coach from whence issues a youth not half so richly dressed, but
wit

THE EMBARRASSED LOVERS. 7

with such a person — such an air —
Well I must guard my heart, or else
somebody must wear the willow. But
you will hear more of these affairs the
next trouble you have from

Your ever affectionate

ISABELLA CLIFFORD.

B THE EMBARRASSED LOVERS

L E T T E R II.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

MAY 4.

WHAT a disappointment! — I joined the company — brilliant to be sure — but not one Nobleman amongst them. The Gentleman who alighted from the chariot and four, was conveyed hither in a carriage which was none of his own, but belonged to the Lord Viscount Richmore, with whom it seems he is very intimate.

The Gentleman's name is Caswell, he is descended from a good family; but as far as I conceive has been a little wild, which circumstance displeased his old grave father, with whom he was for some time in disgrace, but, by means of a fond mother, has lately been taken again into high favour. —

A 11

"All the discernment I have, is only sufficient to shew that he is a complicated character; and if I mistake not, is well versed in the knowledge of woman-kind.

The name of the other youth, whom I mentioned, is Carey, he is the son of a Gentleman who had some fortune, but greater expectations. If I were not tired of descriptions I would attempt his portrait : At present, I shall only observe that he appears to be about eighteen, is a tall, and more than comely youth of a fine shape and air, and a manly deportment, and has the most speaking eye that ever I yet beheld. Positively, I will say no more of his person at present, but leave it to your fancy to guess the rest.—

Soon after these Gentlemen had paid their compliments, and were settled, a young Lady arrived, who proved a very welcome guest, and was no other than Sir John's niece, an agreeable
B 5 person

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person enough, but who was far outshone by his daughter.

If Lady Neville has had a foible, it has been perhaps a love of company ; even now her eyes brightened as our number increased, and she grew by degrees more and more engaging, till at length she became the very life of our conversation.

The amiable Miss Neville spoke but little, but what she said was sensible and well adapted—Her cousin talked more, but on the whole, not quite so much to the purpose. She seems to have rather too much of the affectation of being witty, a fault not uncommon to our sex.

Mr. Caswell, on whose glittering apparel her eyes were rather too much fixed, with a kind of childish pleasure, paid her many compliments, and she seemed to ingross the most of his attention for the evening; but the
3 young,

youth, whom all admired, endeavoured as much as possible to make the conversation *general*, or if ever he deviated from this rule, it was to address himself with the greatest respect to Sir John, whilst at times he could not help casting a glance at his lovely daughter.

For my own part, I should have thought myself a solitary being, but for the endeavours of the young gentleman, and the Baronet purposely engaging me, at times, in the conversation, nor was I at all backward in acknowledging the favour. As to her Ladyship, she really seemed at this juncture almost to have forgotten me; and I could even have found in my heart to have been angry, but that she possesses too much good nature to suffer any one to remain in displeasure with her.

As I find both the young gentlemen are to be our guests for some time, I shall have opportunities enough to observe
 B 6 farther

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farther upon them ; upon Mr. Carey at least, I am sure I shall ; for he appears too open to leave a doubt of it. As to the other, I suppose he, like other men at his time of life, may shew his natural disposition in a course of acquaintance, though at first sight it appears somewhat difficult to scan.

Whatever may be the various tempers of their guests, Sir John and his Lady seem perfectly happy in entertaining them ; and for my part, I cannot but enjoy great pleasure in observing this disposition. However, I am led to remark, from almost every circumstance, that the felicity of this couple would be greatly increased if they could but match their daughter to their satisfaction. This is peculiarly observable in Sir John, who has more than once expressed his fear that he shall not live to see so desirable an end accomplished, though his healthy constitution and regular manner of living, seem yet to promise him many years of life.

These

These wishes of her fond parents are no more than what might naturally be expected; nevertheless, as Cecilia deserves an husband of no common accomplishments, it would be a pity, indeed, to make the election prematurely. It is certain, she possesses so much of sensibility, that a bad marriage would render her one of the most unhappy beings upon earth.

But am not I a very strange creature, Emily, to have written one whole letter, and almost finished another, without one word either of our aunt or of your lover?—As to the first, I protest, it was quite forgetfulness, though I have not forgotten to write particularly to her, as to the latter, you have taken so much pains to tell me that he is not in your thoughts, that you have almost prevailed on me to believe so. I hope you are not a little hypocrite, at least to me, Emily; if you should prove so, I shall certainly find the means to be even with you—
if

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if it be but by troubling you with less of my correspondence for the future. I assure you there are those who bring this accusation against you ; so I would have you look well to your conduct, and on all accounts be not ashamed to deal ingenuously with

Your affectionate

ISABELLA CLIFFORD.

LETTER

L E T T E R III.

JAMES MAYNARD, ESQ.

T O

HENRY CAREY, ESQ.

MAY 5.

IT gives me the greatest pleasure, my dear nephew, to find that you are so well pleased with the little excursion which I projected. May we not hope it will banish that melancholy which you have suffered to prey upon your spirits? It is at least the best prescription that I know of; and I am sure Sir John, who has ever shewn himself most friendly, will do every thing in his power to do you pleasure. But amongst all that you have described as agreeable at Neville Place, it rather surprised me that you took so little notice

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notice of the Baronet's daughter, in whose praises almost every one is so lavish. What a constant knight must you be to an unknown *dulcinea*, not to attend to the charms of such a young beauty, for whom so many youths have sighed in vain. Numbers there are, who would have congratulated themselves if their eyes had even seen those charms, of which you appear so regardless. It may, however, be happy for you in one sense, as the Lady is one of those delicate persons, who is so nice in her choice, that her father seems doubtful whether she will ever fix it or not. However, she is young enough, as yet, one would think, to preclude any fears of that kind. The true cause may be a kind of delicate embarrassment. Sir John having promised never to put any force upon *her* will, perhaps she may fear to act contrary to *his*, in an affair of such a nature, and thus may sigh in secret for some happy youth who is ignorant of the conquest he has made; these are indeed

indeed but conjectures, but they may be allowed to be probable ones, as he is not unacquainted with the nature of women who formed them.

For my own part, in my connexions with the sex, you have often heard me declare I have been unhappy ; it is on this account alone, that I am so seldom found in the company and conversation of females, though I have always thought, that under certain restrictions they should be recommended to our youth.—I need not tell you, nephew, that I mean only the company of such as are virtuous ; as to the other part of the sex, every day's experience shews the ill effects of such attachments.

Not to insist upon the polish, which the conversation of women of sense, gives to our rougher sex, it may not be amiss to observe, that those who are generally thus engaged, are mostly prevented from running to such excesses
as

as are destructive of our youth, and the disgrace of our nation; a circumstance which is certainly worthy of the most serious attention.

But there is one thing which I am always indefatigable in warning young men against, too often perhaps in vain, which is the attaching themselves violently and secretly to some particular object; of whose merit, from the very nature of the intercourse the lover himself can alone be the judge: How well he is able to distinguish, who sees through the medium of such a prejudice, let cool and impartial reason determine. Those who have experienced the consequences of giving way to the impulse of blind passion, can generally best decide upon these matters, though it frequently happens that their wisdom comes too late;—yet they know also how little philosophy there is in love; such as talk most about it, generally have the smallest share of it. If ever you should chance to meet

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with your *incognita*, which I am cruel enough to wish may not be the case, these lessons may chance to be of some service to you, and as such they are heartily at your service, from

Your affectionate kinsman,

JAMES MAYNARD.

LETTER

L E T T E R IV.

H E N R Y C A R E Y, E S Q.

T O

C H A R L E S M O R L E Y, E S Q.

M A Y 5.

I Know not how, my dear Friend, to answer your affectionate enquiries, particularly those which regard my health. I have found what has proved a temporary relief from that languishing lately I complained of; but what at the same time may throw me into a much worse situation, unless such good fortune, as I have no reason to expect, should attend me, such as indeed scarcely the hope of seems to remain, but I will disclose my situation to you, and you shall judge accordingly.

I have

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I have often promised you, Charles, an account of the whole of that strange adventure of mine in —shire, of which you have heard but imperfectly. I could not chuse a better opportunity than the present for giving you this information, as it is immediately connected with what farther I have to acquaint you of. By the sequel you will see how much the matter is likely to contribute to my happiness.

It was one pleasant evening, at the latter end of last year, as I was wandering among the rural scenes, the beauties of which had already begun to fade, that a black cloud seeming to presage rain, I drew towards a neighbouring cottage, which I entered just before those drops began to fall, which proved but the prelude to a heavy shower.

This little tenement was inhabited by two poor old people, who were
past

past their labour, together with a daughter, by whose work (as I afterwards understood) they were chiefly subsisted.

I was surprised in this mean dwelling to find a young Lady of most exquisite beauty, who was deeply engaged in discourse with the old man, but seemed much disturbed at my entrance, and even attempted to depart, and it was not without some force of persuasion that she was detained, though the shower had already began.

At length she was prevailed on to resume her seat, close by the old man's wicker chair. Her words were afterwards few, but it was to him and his wife, that the little she said was directed; and as soon as it proved fair she prepared immediately to be gone. I desired I might be permitted to escort her; but she, though with great politeness, yet absolutely declined my offer; the only consolation I had, was
my

my expectation of learning from my homely host who this charmer was, that had already enchanted my soul with her beauty, and ineffable sweetness.

But in this I was greatly disappointed, for after the most minute enquiry, all the account I could get amounted to no more than that this pattern of female perfection had some time ago strayed to the cottage by chance, where the poor old man then lay ill, to whom she had administered the most generous relief, and had sent an apothecary to attend him, by whose endeavours he was restored to health; the daughter also, who exhibited a true picture of rural simplicity, had attracted her notice, and had received many favours from her.

“But,” added my host, “after all this, I never could find who the person was to whom I was indebted for so many obligations. The apothecary had a particular charge not to discover his employer,

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employer, and the Lady herself even threatened to withdraw her countenance and support from us, if ever she found that we presumed to make enquiries concerning what she was disposed to conceal. She often honours our lowly mansion with a visit, and we are happy in receiving her benefactions without transgressing the rules prescribed by the generous donor."

The discourse of the old man sufficiently indicated that he had seen better days, and the account he gave me of himself confirmed the matter; this was full of unaffected simplicity; he gave me to understand that he had been an unfortunate person whom many circumstances had concurred to throw from a state of comfortable competency, into one of the most abject want, when, fortunately for him, a neighbouring gentleman had taken notice of him, and given him the cottage he dwelt in, as well as allowed him a small stipend to live upon; the
latter

latter ceased at his benefactor's death; the former he still retained, but fell again into deep distress as well as sickness in his old age, when this young beauty chancing to pass that way one wet day took shelter in his homely dwelling, and had ever since showered her favours upon him.

Such was the substance of his narration, the particulars are too long to be inserted in a letter.

You will not doubt but that I took every means that fancy could suggest to find out who this lady was; you know that these were all used in vain. And it was more on this account than by reason of the death of a relation that a sort of melancholy hung upon me which the physicians apprehended would produce a decline, and which no mode of care that they prescribed, promised any way effectually to remove.

My coming hither was one of those methods which my worthy uncle projected to divert me. You are acquainted with the character of Sir John and his Lady ; to add any thing concerning them would be superfluous. But he has a daughter in who sepraise description would fail. She has every accomplishment that nature or art can furnish, all that we know of fair or good in the sex, is centered in her alone. — You are doubtless, by this time ready to smile at my inconstancy ; but what will you say when I inform you that this very lady is no other than the fair unknown one, on whom my heart so long was fix'd. the same generous beauty who in —shire first attracted my unexperienced heart, and proved the source of my melancholy.

It is impossible to express my surprise at the discovery of this circumstance ; which, however, I found means to conceal for some time under a profound silence. I have no doubt but
that

that the idol of my soul was sufficiently certain of my being the same person whom chance before had thrown in her way. What were her sensations in this circumstance, I was not able to discover ; but I have little hopes of any thing favourable to my wishes ; all that I daily hear relative to the family is against me. Sir John is prodigiously rich, and however he may like me as a friend, I have many reasons to suppose he would not approve me for a son-in-law, and none but such as he approves (were there no other obstacle in the way) will ever become the husband of the lovely Cecilia.

These circumstances have left me in a sea of doubts ; my mind is in a strange kind of fluctuation ; how should it be otherwise, when all that I hold dear in the world depends on such a slight, such a slender hope, as mine, whilst every day the fair one is displaying some new charm or some

hidden grace, which more effectually serves to captivate the heart of her admirer ! In this situation, the friend of my youth will not fail to compassionate me. O Charles, it is scarcely possible for you to conceive the passions which at times agitate this bosom ; yet, as it is highly proper that I should confine them within certain bounds, it is my continual care to do so. A hard task this to a heart so struck as mine !—But I have perhaps already tired you with the length of this epistle, which I cannot imagine any thing could render tolerable, except that regard which I am well convinced you always entertain for

Your sincere,

HENRY CAREY.

LETTER

L E T T E R V.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

MAY 6.

JUSTICE will compel every body to own that the manners of Sir John are such as give him a title to be stiled truly munificent. He adopts at once a hospitable and a truly splendid way of living; yet, his affection for splendour is not such as is taken up by gew-gaws, but such as does him real honour, while the whole country round is the better ^{us} for it. He is not one of those persons, indeed, who make it their study to subscribe to all public institutions, by which means they have their names graven on the front of large edifices, his pride is rather to have his deeply impressed upon the hearts of those whom his generosity has relieved. He has agents perpetually

petually employed in seeking out such deserving persons as labour under indigence, the consequence of inevitable misfortunes : 'Those who have seen better days, and have been reduced from affluence or from a comfortable competency to want, are the more immediate objects of his charity ; though the poor in general, and the industrious peasants in particular, are by no means excluded from his beneficence ; his daughter, the amiable Cecilia, has also her pensioners here, as I have found, though this pattern of perfection is most careful to conceal the effects of her virtues ; I know, not, indeed, where there is such another family to be found in the world : How happy would he be that could make an alliance with them !

There is a young gentleman here upon a visit, of whom (to tell you the secret of my heart) I should be not a little jealous, could I perceive that the least degree of regard was shewn him
by

by the mistress of my affections. This youth, whose name is Caswell, is allowed by every body to have a very winning deportment ; yet there is a something in his behaviour which I do not like, and from the accounts that I have heard of him, his character has not been the most unexceptionable in the world ; but most of what is alledged against him having only passed amongst his own family who are now reconciled, the whole can have but little weight when put into the scale against his personal accomplishments, which are, what the generality of people are found to have the most regard to :— I cannot help fancying how indifferent soever Miss Cecilia may appear to him, that Lady Neville is inclined to favour him. As to Sir John, his conduct in this, as indeed in every other matter, seems wary, without suspiciousness, and open, without the danger of being imposed on : Whatever may be the different opinions of these worthy persons, Mr. Caswell is treated by

C 4

them

them all in such a manner as leaves him no room to complain, nor to repent of the visit which he has made to Neville Place, where his parents have formerly been treated with all the marks of sincere love and friendship.

Could I look upon any other woman than Cecilia with the eyes of passion, I assure you, I have seen those here who might well have inspired in it. There are two or three young females that visit us *en passant*, who are really pretty, and a lady, who takes up her constant residence with us at present, who is known by the name of Miss Clifford, is more than agreeable. She appears to be about twenty-three or twenty-four years of age, is in her full bloom, and has a very great share both of sense and sensibility, as her fine eyes cannot fail of telling any one who converses with her. Though possessed of all her sex's modesty, yet she is as far removed from the character of a prude as any woman I ever knew in my life.

I have

I have many times wished that she were the relation of my Cecilia, as that circumstance would enable me to make her the confidante of my love, if at any favourable conjuncture, I should ever find occasion to declare it. Forgive me, Morley, for thus, for ever returning to the same subject; indeed, my passion has so effectually engrossed all my faculties that I can scarcely speak, write, or even think of any thing else. I have no other excuse but the beauties of Cecilia. I have nothing to depend upon but the indulgence of a friend who has ever been dear to

HENRY CAREY.

L E T T E R VI.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

MAY 8.

EVERY day gives me fresh proofs of the regard of the worthy family whom at present I reside with. Sir John has professed himself deeply interested in my affairs. Taking me aside yesterday, “Mr. Carey (said he) I always regarded your relations; ever since I have seen you, I have conceived a particular esteem for you—such as I doubt not you will never forfeit. My acquaintance with your worthy uncle has given me an opportunity of hearing still more of what respects your character, and the result has been in your favour. Pardon me, Sir, if I propose your accepting some appointment, which by making a small addition to your fortune, may, in a measure

measure, increase your power of being serviceable to your friends, which I know you would always be pleased to exert."

Having spoken thus, the Baronet waited a little for my answer, which I couched in the most respectful terms imaginable. At the same time that I acknowledged my gratitude for the generous design he entertained of enlarging my fortune, I begged leave to decline accepting the offer, on that principle of independance which you know I have always adopted.

As there is nothing that I fear more than offending a worthy man (except it be abandoning my principles for any man) so I was rather in a disagreeable situation after I had answered Sir John, whom I regarded with a filial reverence, and on whom perhaps the happiness of my future life may depend. I was agreeably surpris'd to find that my reply was far from being displeasing

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to him ;—on the contrary, he told me that he admired my principles, and would be the last person in the world to wish me to deviate from them. This was all that passed between us at that time, but I have been fully convinced by his cordial behaviour since, not only that his heart went with his words, but also that I stand higher in his esteem than ever. I grant that in some, these appearances have proved deceitful ; but when all circumstances indicate a sincere heart, the bare suspicion of the contrary is no less than treason to friendship. Were Sir John Neville *not* the father of Cecilia (a circumstance which I own carries a charm with it) yet would his honourable spirit, his affable behaviour have such an effect upon me, that I should for ever be attached to him, and never entertain a doubt of his sincerity in any thing.

Miss Clifford, is a person whom he speaks of with the greatest affection ;
he.

he even calls her his *other daughter*, while she returns his regard with a respect as becoming in her as it must be agreeable to him who is the object of it.—The more I see of that lady the more I am led to respect her, and tempted to make her a friend to whom I may entrust the inmost secrets of my heart.

This is a confidence, Morley, which hitherto you only have possessed, but you cannot be angry with a woman, should she in future have a share of it ; at least, I am inclined to entertain a higher opinion of *your* generosity.—As to my uncle ; though he is at once my relation and my friend, yet there appears to me a *something not to be described* in him, which forbids unbounded confidence in matters of this nature. He has himself been unhappy in his connexion with females ; whatever *some* may conclude from thence, I conceive him, for that very reason, to be unfit to be trusted with all that passes at present in my breast ; though
in

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in the simplicity of my heart, I made him acquainted with my ——shire adventure. Did he know who the fair *incognita* was, all circumstances considered, I doubt not but in the true spirit of discretion, he would sufficiently chide me for entertaining a passion for one, whom though he approves, he has already observed is difficult to be made a bride, even though her heart should be already won. In effect, though I have the highest reverence for my uncle, yet I have not prevailed upon myself to make him acquainted with my discovery.

As it now grows late, I shall add no more at present, except the repeated assurances, how much, I am,

Yours, &c.

HENRY CAREY.

LETTER

L E T T E R VII.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

MAY 11.

I HAVE already told you, my dear Charles, of the proposal made me by Sir John Neville. It was not a wrong conception of mine that the refusal I made did not disoblige him. That noble-minded gentleman ever attentive to the welfare of those with whom he is connected, closeted me to-day, when he thus addressed me, " Mr. Carey, I should be infinitely sorry, if any thing that I have said, or could be capable of saying, should in your opinion take off from the delicacy of my regard, which I have always professed to shew to you and to your family. Of all things, Sir, it was the farthest from my thoughts, to endeavour to enslave your free mind,
or

or to throw you under such obligations to any body as might tend to take from your independance, which I should be the first to exhort you for ever to keep inviolate. I am not, however, displeased that this little mistake of yours has so fully possessed me of your sentiments in this regard, for which I more than ever honour and esteem you. But be assured, my dear Mr. Carey ; what I have to offer is of such a nature as will by no means give any shock to your principles." He then said, he meant an appointment which by no means depends on the caprice of a minister, or even of a S——n, a small but independant and honourable employment, the profits of which together, with what I already am possessed of, will more than answer all my expectations according to the scheme of life which I have adopted, and even leave something to spare where distressed friendship may have any claims upon my assistance — I am still the more pleased with this unexpected

pected acquisition, as the nature of it, I find, is such as will require a deputy; to fill which office, I have already cast my eyes upon a worthy young fellow who is newly married, and at present under very great embarrassments; he will doubtless be glad to accept the offer, and shall have it in my power to make it produce him a comfortable subsistence.

What this place is, I am not yet fully informed, nor am I even at liberty at present to mention what I know concerning it; but nothing can restrain me from expressing my gratitude to Sir John, who is careful in studying to do me service. But yet even his goodness tends in one respect to give me pain. After all this, what a piece of ingratitude would it be in me to attempt seducing the affections of his daughter on the one hand; or, situated as I am, with what face could I ask her at the hands of a father who is heaping favours upon me unasked.

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asked? What sort of a return would his be thought from one in my situation? O Morley, I must summon all my fortitude to my aid; I must resolve to conquer my unreasonable passion for Cecilia, or must resolve to be for ever miserable. Farewel! pity, though you cannot assist

Your faithful

HENRY CAREY.

LETTER

L E T T E R VIII.

C H A R L E S M O R L E Y, E S Q.

T O

H E N R Y C A R E Y, E S Q.

MAY 10.

YE S, my dear friend, I pity you from my soul, I compassionate your distress ; but what can I advise to alleviate it ?

It was with surprise, indeed, that I heard your *incognita* turned out to be Miss Cecilia Neville. What followed was no more than I expected from a person of your strict principles, and attachment of the rules of honour in your connexions with the sex. Indeed, the circumstances of Sir John's offer carries with it an air of such generosity

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nerosity as must have a great effect upon a man of sensibility. I congratulate you, my friend, upon this occasion, and hope your acceptance of the appointment which you mention, may contribute more to your ease and happiness than you seem at present inclined to think it will ;—but there is one thing that you have not thought proper to make me acquainted with, which is, whether it will be the means of detaining you in Sir John's neighbourhood, or of removing you to some distance from him. This is a circumstance which, if you mean to keep the resolution you have communicated, is certainly of consequence to be enquired into. You say, you will summon your reason and fortitude to your aid ; but alas ! at your years how apt are these to give way before the strength of passion, especially where that passion, like yours, is virtuous, like yours is fixed upon a worthy object. In this case, believe me, Harry, there is nothing left but to
quit

quit the combat, and retire, to conquer ; for your triumph lies only in flight. If you remain at Neville Place, time which might otherwise heal the wound that love has made, will not fail daily to make it deeper and more painful. This is what your own reason might suggest ; at least, you will allow it, on consideration, to be the proper, and indeed the only method which remains for you to put in practice. If you cannot bring yourself to this, your case most certainly is desperate.

But after all, may not you entertain rather too much of delicacy on this occasion ? The lady, charming as she is, may entertain a secret passion for you, or at least, may be inspired with one ; and as to the baronet, how know you, that he who is so ready to render you service may so highly disapprove of you for a son-in-law—There may be, indeed, many circumstances against you ; but that
merit

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merit which (without flattery) you are known to possess, should it fortunately co-operate with a passion that an amiable daughter entertains for you, may yet work such a change in the resolutions of so worthy a person as you have described the Baronet, that every other circumstance may be set aside : and you will do well to consider what probability remains of such a change taking place before you think of adopting any system of conduct in such a critical situation.—Thus you have my best advice upon the subject.

At the same time, I cannot help expressing my wish that the other young lady, whom you mention in such high terms had happily proved the object of your passion, as I doubt not but she would have been worthy of it—There may perhaps appear something selfish in this wish when on some future day, I shall trouble you with a relation of a few incidents which have happened since I saw you. At present

sent I am entirely ingrossed with your concerns, which have always had a place in the most serious consideration of

Your ever sincere

CHARLES MORLEY.

LETTER

L E T T E R IX.

G E O R G E C A S S W E L L, E S Q.

T O

M R. J O H N T U R N E R.

MAY 8.

IT is an age, dear Jack, since I heard from thee ; yet I will not be precipitate in blaming, as I guess already what the excuse will be ; namely, “ that thou hadst nothing to write to me,” and not being like some of our eternal scribblers, who are for ever filling their paper with sentiments and reflexions, merely, because they have nothing else to supply the place, thou wast not willing to trouble me with what might pass in my esteem for no better than mere blank paper, notwithstanding the emblematical resemblance it might be thought to

to bear to virtue, chastity, &c. which would by no means compensate to me for its barrenness. I should think my whole life but a blank if only those monkish qualities, which some call virtues, were found to fill up its space. Self-denial, indeed, I sometimes approve of practising; but that is only as thou knowest where to compass some desirable end, it becomes absolutely necessary.

I hope thou hast not failed, Jack, of keeping a watchful eye over the motions of her, whom I have destined for myself. Thy charge will not last much longer; for, I have now laid a plan which will infallibly bring her into my own vortex, if it should succeed, and I seldom fail of success in affairs of this nature;—I do not love to be too communicative in respect to what I do; however, I will for once so far intrust thee as to let thee know that we have a relation of the girl's here at Neville Place, by whose means

I intend to bring her hither also. The rest of the plan I have also laid, and, as I think, have so well provided against contingences that it will be difficult to defeat it.

To tell thee the truth, friend, it is only from prospects, such as these, that I am enabled to endure my residence here ; for I am placed among a set of people, who, while they are perpetually talking of *innocent mirth*, seem to have no idea of mirth in them ; at least, their notions of it are so different from mine, that I find but little pleasure in their society, though I carry such an appearance that in general they seem well enough satisfied with me, how far they *really are* so it will by and bye be my business to prove.

To describe these people to thee : —
In the first place, there is Sir John Neville, a baronet of antiquated notions, fond, however, of family and
not

not at all a foe to fortune; he has like wise some notions of gaiety; but these are rather too old fashioned to please.

His lady is younger and more sprightly, though somewhat too fond of setting herself up for a virtuous woman and a constant wife: yet perhaps it may not be impossible to cure her of the affectation of these captivating qualities.

Then there is that relation of my fair mistress, whom I just now mentioned; a lively sprightly girl enough in her natural temper, though she too is strictly chaste and at times will appear too sober, yet I am but an ill diviner if she does not love mischief at the heart of her.

The last, "but not the least in our dear love," is Miss Cecilia Neville, the daughter of the baronet, a beautiful creature indeed; but then all virtue,

all sentiment : If it were not for a certain *naïveté*, which sometimes discovers itself in her manner, I should be inclined to think her the veriest little prude upon earth.

Now, Jack, what thinkest thou of thy friend's situation ; art thou disposed to envy my situation ? Unless I can better it by my art ; I cannot reckon it very desirable. How, indeed, should it be so, when I am constrained to hide my natural disposition ; to make amends for this indeed, I am always made one of their parties of pleasure ; but then in these they affect such a rusticity that, were it not for the womens company, they would be insupportable. What is thy opinion now, Jack, of admitting a parcel of clowns and red-fisted country wenches into the gardens, in order to be diverted by their dancing, and occasionally filling the hall, and some other of the apartments with the silly old folks their fathers and mothers ? And yet
this

this gives Sir John, what he calls *ineffable* pleasure, and *supreme delight*. What a thing it is to be virtuous, and what a pity it would be now, to give the least uneasiness to such a family ! — Yet, it is ten to one if they will not say, that I have made them uneasy ; when (peace be with them !) I shall not attempt any thing more than simply to procure ease and pleasure to myself. But of this hereafter ; for the present, I shall conclude, assuring thee how much, I am,

Ever thine,

GEORGE CASSWELL.

I. E T T E R X.

MR. JOHN TURNER.

T O

GEORGE CASSWELL, ESQ.

MAY 13.

I Received yours, my honoured friend, and am much obliged to you for your *lively* description of the *dull* company at Neville Place. It is not every one that has such talents of describing. I do believe, had I attempted it, my letter would have proved insipid. — In respect to the charge, you gave me, I have been very attentive to it, and can assure you, that if you lose the mistress of your desires, the fault will not be mine. As to her lover, the fair one continues to slight him, which is somewhat, at least, in your favour. What your schemes
are,

are, as you will not communicate, so neither shall I pretend to guess at ; but I doubt not of their being such as are worthy of your genius, and will by the same rule succeed accordingly.

I should, indeed, be sorry, were I to loose the pleasure of your company, which might possibly be the case if you found any thing captivating where you are at present. Since it is otherwise, when your plans are executed, I suppose you will return to your old friends and companions, none of whom will be more happy in seeing, you than

Your friend, and ever

obedient servant,

JOHN TURNER.

LETTER XI.

SIR JOHN NEVILLE,

TO

EDWARD NEVILLE, ESQ.

MAY 5.

I AM sorry for your misfortunes, my dear kinsman, and more particularly so, as your friend, you say, is involved in them. — You are deceived if you think that I shall take the advantage of reproaching you for what is *past* ; though your imprudence has, indeed, given me the opportunity of so doing ; but as this would be useless in the *present* case, I shall only, once for all, observe the necessity there is for your being more frugal in future, as by a different conduct you will otherwise put it equally out of the power as well.

well as the will of your friends to assist you.

The money, which you have contracted an obligation for, I will find the means to send you a draught for, if you will promise a strict œconomy for the future, according to a plan which shall be suggested to you, on which condition alone I can pretend to serve you.

As to what you mention relative to the lady, whom you mean to address. I would have you consider your own circumstances before you proceed any farther. Above all things, I would by no means have you act so mean a part as that of concealing your real situation either from her or from her friends. However, if, after this, you are admitted in a fair and open manner to solicit the lady's favour, and for a certain space of time can prove your conduct unexceptionable, I will even go so far as to do every thing in my

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power to put your affairs on a better footing. But in all this, I trust, you will deal with the utmost sincerity. Remember, I beseech you, that you cannot deceive *me* without also deceiving *yourself*; and believe, that I shall omit nothing in my power to approve my friendship when I am once convinced that it will do you a real service; to effect which is the wish of

Your, &c.

JOHN NEVILLE.

LETTER

L E T T E R XII.

MISS ISABELLA CLIFFORD

T O

MISS EMILIA CLIFFORD.

MAY 5.

OH ! do you know, my dear sister, how much our gaiety here is increased, by the arrival of a lord — the lord Richmore, the great patron of Casswell. I assure you, his lordship is a very handsome man, and very gallant ; he is come hither upon some very particular business, which he has with that young gentleman ; and Sir John could not do less than invite him to pass a day or two with us, to which his lordship agreed, and we are now

D 6

happy.

happy in his presence. Really, he is very splendid in his appearance, and has paid such regard to Mr. Caswell ever since his arrival, that the latter now becomes more and more of consequence at Neville Place, especially with lady Neville; who seems inclined to think, that not himself, but his friends have always been in fault in their contests. To be sure, if a little youthful wildness has been his only fault, some excuse may be made for that ; — at least, women are ready enough to find them for a handsome young fellow, such as he really is acknowledged to be; and then a lord, you know, to back him. Well, I own myself that this Caswell has a very engaging manner, if it is not all hypocrisy. But who shall judge of these men? O Emily! I have already been deceived by one, is it wonderful then that I should doubt them all. But perhaps my misfortunes were necessary to fix in some small measure one of the most volatile

volatile tempers that ever was.—For your own part, Emily, you have never experienced such afflictions as have been my lot ; it will behove you to be careful never to involve yourself in such. As I am now serious, I cannot but commend the suspense in which you hold your lover, if it proceeds from prudential motives ; but if it is only from a kind of coquetry that leads you to trifle with a worthy man, neither my volatility on the one hand, nor my opinion of the sex on the other, will ever cause me to support you in it. As you are most sensible of the great regard I have for your welfare, you cannot doubt of the motives which urge me to give you advice whenever it offers. To add more would therefore be needless ; it is seldom I am in the moralizing strain, and I cannot dwell long upon subjects of that nature, but whenever this is the case, I am apt to consider
well,

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well, before I speak or write my opinions;—I wish at present the delivering of them may be of any service to you, as you can never be dearer to any one than you always have been to

Your affectionate sister,

ISABELLA CLIFFORD.

LETTER.

L E T T E R XIII.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

MAY 10.

OH Heavens ! I shall grow quite vain of myself, Emily. Such a circumstance ! Sure, - you could never have dreamed of it. What ! the female who, from sweet smiling sixteen to blooming twenty, could not have one noble, no, nor one semi-noble lover ; in her twenty-fifth year to captivate a lord, and a lord of fortune too : yet so it is, or I have no skill in judging of the sex.

In effect, lord Richmore, the wealthy, the gay, the gallant, is my admirer. Now, don't you ask ill-natured questions in order to hurt my felicity : positively, I cannot afford to
answer

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answer them ; and I am in such high spirits about this affair, that it would be the utmost cruelty to damp them.

I shall therefore only tell you, that my lord has been particular in his behaviour to me ever since his arrival here. This at first, I seemed to take no notice of, till at last it became the talk of every one, and the name of Miss Clifford was constantly joined to that of lord Richmore. Yet, I am apprehensive, that

— Thus they join
Two names, which Heav'n decreed should
never meet.

For, seriously speaking, as I must confess I have my reasons, so I have cause to think there are obstacles likewise in the way of his lordship. — But however these things may be, as the matter has not yet been mentioned to me in direct terms, I shall pursue the matter no farther at present. At least
till

THE EMBARRASSED LOVERS. 63

till it is farther pursued by my noble gallant, it is not worth while to put his truth to the proof, even if I were disposed to admit him to fight at the feet of

Your

ISABELLA CLIFFORD.

LETTER

L E T T E R XIV.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

MAY 13.

ABSOLUTELY conquered—The symptoms were strong upon him for some time past; but yesterday evening this dear lord of mine found means to solicit me from the rest of the company, and, having led me into one of the agreeable private walks behind the house, there, “While the sun descended towards the west, and twilight began to veil the eye of heaven;” there did he say such soothing things as I cannot repeat; there did he liken my bright eyes to sun, moon and stars, my cheeks to roses and vermillion, my lips to rubies, with a hundred other likenesses which could exist no where but in his own imagination. I listened attentive to the soothing tale, which ended—

ended at length in a downright declaration of love. This, indeed, I had for some time expected, and being thus prepared, I must needs know how to receive it.

Emily, don't you love HEROICS ? I think I have fallen naturally enough into them in the preceding part of this letter ; but I must descend now I come to the relation of the simple matter of fact, which is no more than that after making my acknowledgements in the most polite manner, I declined his lordship's offer, which seemed at first to surprise him ; however, with a manner peculiar to himself he turned it off with a sally of wit, and would by no means take my refusal in the serious sense ; — so he is resolved still to profess himself my admirer ; and as the man flatters agreeably enough, and is of a rank to do one credit, what does it signify ? Besides, he will not take his answer, and so the matter must even rest where it is.

Now

Now after acknowledging all this to you, perhaps, Emily, you will not be well disposed to receive a piece of serious advice from me. This it is when people's elders make too free with them. But you must remember, girl, our different situations in life as well as our different dispositions, which may tend to make a conduct not exceptionable in me, which yet in you might prove inexcusable.

After this prelude, do you guess what I am about to advise? — It is only this, that you would not trifle with your lover, who seems by no means to be himself a trifler, but at once accept or refuse him, in justice to his merit and to your own character. Indeed, I do not see any reasonable objection you can urge against becoming his wife, unless, like Miss Cecilia, you should think fit to declare you are too young for marriage. For my own part, I hold a different opinion, and though I should be deemed an

an instance myself, of a woman's living single to her twenty-fifth year, yet, my fortune has been so extraordinary, that there would be no propriety in urging the example; and I cannot help thinking that many a female is subjected to numerous afflictions, or sometimes perhaps, owes her absolute ruin to her not being married at an early period. This is a subject which I have not time here to enlarge upon; but I would have you well weigh the advice I have given you, and the more so, as I am sensible your aunt's opinion in this, corresponds with that of

Your ever affectionate

ISABELLA CLIFFORD.

LETTER

L E T T E R X V .

J A M E S M A Y N A R D , E S Q .

T O

H E N R Y C A R E Y , E S Q .

M A Y 10 .

THE cordial behaviour of Sir John Neville, my dear Harry, is such as you can never too gratefully acknowledge. He is one of those few, who are acquainted with the embarrassments of our family. Your father's boundless confidence and generosity had almost proved his ruin, but for the interposition of some friends, of whom this worthy baronet was the chief. For me, you know the part I acted in that crisis, though you were ignorant of *his* interposition ; — The precious charge I received at the death of the best of men,

men, regarding his orphan son, you can best judge how I have fulfilled ; I have spared nothing upon your education, and finding you virtuous, I have never been willing to abridge you in any expences which might contribute to your innocent pleasures, or support your character as a gentleman ; but alas ! my fortune, you are sensible, is not such as will enable me to do this in such a manner as I could wish ; something therefore must depend upon your care to improve those faculties you possess from heaven, and which have received all the polish of a genteel education.

My kinsman is too well acquainted with my sentiments to think that I mean to wound him by this recapitulation — all that I intend is only by this retrospect to shew him his present situation, and the necessity there is by every honourable means to improve his scanty fortune.

These

These reflexions, to deal plainly with you, have been raised in my bosom by your account of the manner in which you received Sir John's offer of procuring you an appointment. Believe me Harry, there is a kind of false delicacy which will sometimes operate on particular persons, in such a manner as to injure them in the world without being serviceable at all to the cause of virtue. I would by no means put a wrong construction upon your behaviour, but I should wish to instruct you in any points wherewith, through inadvertence, you may not be unacquainted.

As you are very sensible that Sir John Neville is by no means of a temper to be dependant on the best prince or court in the world, methinks you should not even have hinted a supposition that he had a design of urging you to embrace that dependance which he himself disapproves. As you are not deficient in politeness, I wonder this
thought

L E T T E R XXVII.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

JUNE 2.

THE earl of Richmore, the great patron of Mr. Caswell, is arrived amongst us ; he is received with great politeness by my father, with the most of ceremony by my mother that ever I knew her make use of. This nobleman is almost inseparable from the young gentleman, whom I hope he is not misleading from the paths of virtue. His lordship has a genteel address and a large estate, and seems to attach himself much to miss Clifford; I know not whether that young lady is ambitious of wearing a coronet; but if she is, I really believe that there is one ready for her acceptance. Titles, pomp, and wealth are things very taking with most of our sex. Heaven knows, how little effect they have upon me. . As to the former, they are too often accompanied with such a

load of troublesome ceremony, as must necessarily tend to make them burdensome to one of my disposition; there are a few indeed, who having resolved to live to themselves, have at length accomplished their wish, but these have been people of equal perseverance and remarkable good qualities, which have with difficulty secured them from the idle talk of the world, that is too apt to attend such a deviation from the tyranny of custom, whose law is too much honoured among the higher ranks of mankind. How few can compass such a design!—As to riches, though I am not one of those who pretend to despise them, yet I think, there are many things with which they ought not to be put into competition. Indeed, there are those who may say, there is no wonder that those who are possessed of affluence should philosophise in this manner. I profess my opinions are not influenced, (at least upon examining my own heart I do not find that they are) by any such circumstance; — were I the poorest village

village maid, I could not consent to be wedded either to the earl or to his young friend, because, I think I perceive in both of them such qualities as are likely to counterpoise all the gifts of fortune.

His lordship talks of making a purchase in our neighbourhood, in order to be near us, and really I cannot help thinking that miss Clifford hears this with satisfaction. I have conceived a great regard for that lady, and hope lord Richmore may turn out another sort of person than I take him for, if he should obtain her hand in marriage.

If I am not misinformed, the earl once had a brother to whom he did not behave with the greatest kindness; the world says likewise, that he has a nephew who lives at this time in great obscurity. I do not love to reason upon these matters, which are the concerns of private families; yet I cannot but observe, that it is a little re-

markable to see this nobleman fixing his attention so much upon one who is not at all of kin to him, while he neglects his own relations.—There is one of our family who has committed many extravagances, and yet my father has never refused to assist him, and would be at any time ready to countenance him, if he could be brought to act regularly up to the rules of virtue; but he is a strange young man, as Sir John says, and of so fickle a nature, that there is no certainty of his adhering to any principle whatsoever. If we can own such a relation, wherein consists the propriety of his lordship's neglecting *his*, without any apparent reason for so doing.

I doubt not but it will be said, my dear Lucy, that I know little of life; little indeed, do I desire to know, of what some^o call by that name; young as I am, if I cannot live to peace and virtue, I am indifferent about living at all——were I to say as much to some people,

people, I might perhaps incur the imputation of vanity ; but you I look upon a second self ; your faithful bosom is therefore the safe repository of the most secret thoughts of

Your,

CECILIA NEVILLE

L E T T E R XXVIII.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

J U N E 3.

MR. Carey, my dear Lucy, is resolved to be particular with me; he follows me wherever he can do it with propriety, and last night my father gave him my hand at a ball, when his very look and gesture betrayed a passion which I could heartily wish he never had conceived. Splendidly dressed, we drew the attention of the whole company, which was the more fixed on us, on account of the elegant air of Mr. Carey, who dances to a miracle. I saw, or thought I saw, some very significant glances cast towards him by a rich and handsome young widow who made one in the assembly. I could not perceive any inclination in my partner to return them; perhaps I misconstrued the meaning of this language; yet riches one would think might

might be welcome to a youth of Mr. Carey's liveliness, who seems to have a heart susceptible of pleasure, at the same time that he makes no scruple of acknowledging how circumscribed his fortune is, while his disposition seems to incline him to be generous, I had almost said to profuse. I know Sir John is inclined to serve him; but how he will do it without offending a certain delicacy that he appears to entertain, I know not. It is a pity that any misfortunes should ever have attended the father of so worthy a son, who now depends chiefly upon an uncle that treats him with a parental affection.

My mother has of late seemed to have conceived a particular good opinion of Mr. Casswell: Indeed there are many who say that he has a very insinuating address. It has never been my custom to pass a judgment upon the actions of my parents, whose care and prudence have hitherto so well conducted me through life; yet I confess, I always fear for those who admit

this young man to their intimacy ; yet I would wish if possible to divest myself of prejudice, and argue only from the precepts of reason. Sir John is just gone to London about particular business.

My mother is indisposed ; she has just now sent for me to attend her in her chamber. You will excuse me, Lucy ; I fly to the best of parents. Adieu, ever remember your

CECILIA NEVILLE.

LETTER

L E T T E R XXIX.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

J U N E 4.

MY mother's indisposition is not at present of a dangerous nature. So says her physician; yet at the same time he has intimated to some about her, that something preys on her spirits.— It was intended to dispatch a messenger to recall Sir John; but she will not suffer it. What may this mean? I attend her with the most tender care, yet there is nothing on her spirits that she chuses to confide to her daughter. She says she is certain the disorder will abate presently.

Casswell is gone to his father's, I think I feel myself more easy since his departure: Mr. Carey continues his respective assiduities; the tender manner in which he is always enquiring after Lady Neville's health, cannot but be most agreeable to me; yet I cannot say that I have perceived any

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great attention to him on the part of my mother. Miss Clifford, who has many good qualities, affords me much consolation, yet much do I miss my dear Lucy, who has ever had the greatest share in the affections of her

CECILIA NEVILLE.

LETTER

L E T T E R X X X .

MISS LUCY HARVEY,

T O

MISS CECILIA NEVILLE.

BE'LIEVE me, my dear Miss Neville, you cannot be more desirous than I am of our meeting; which perhaps may take place sooner than I at first imagined; in the mean time, I need not tell you that your letters are most welcome to me, as being the only consolation which I can receive, in order to make amends for the loss of your company.

I doubted not but you must now, as always, spend your hours most agreeably at Neville-Place, since my acquaintance with the temper of your worthy parents, to whom you always bore a truly filial affection, must necessarily lead me to conclude, that they would neglect nothing to render

G 6

life

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life agreeable, during the family's residence in this country.

Neville-Place has always seemed to me a terrestrial paradise, and I think I know too much of my fair friend's disposition, to suppose that her long acquaintance with its beauties can diminish them in her eyes, or that she finds less charms in an agreeable place, merely because it is her home.

I most sincerely wish, that the arrival of your new guests may contribute to increase your pleasures ; agreeable company is one of the greatest delights in life, and I hope there is nothing in any of your guests, that will contribute to render them disagreeable to you.

At the same time, my Cecilia, I cannot help repeating an observation that I have so often made, and which I think you have also approved ; it is, That there is little occasion for our minutely considering every circumstance relative to our visitants in polite
life

life (provided we look upon them as visitants only) while their general character is such, as can reflect no dishonour upon us; I know your delicacy in this case, my dear, and it cannot on the whole but be praise-worthy; young ladies cannot be too careful with whom they intimately associate; yet I should be sorry to see my friend rendered unhappy by the folly of others.—You will conceive, that these reflections have their source from some passages in yours, where you express a doubt concerning the disposition of one with whom you are never likely to have any further connexion, than as a visitor at Neville-Place, where such proper order is always kept, in the midst of hospitality, that the wildest cannot fail of being restrained within the bounds of due decorum.

The adventure of the young gentleman, whom you formerly met with by accident, while you were in ——shire, might be likely to concern you more nearly, if your heart were not guarded
against

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against attacks of that kind, of which you express so much apprehension.

My dear Cecilia, the good sense which you possess is such, that there has as yet been little room for any one to dictate to you : Even your parents have not interfered in your determination with regard to the most important concerns in life ; all advice to you in such a case might therefore seem needless ; certainly, you who have rejected, so early in life, the proffer of so many honourable and worthy matches, will never suffer yourself to become the prize of one that is unworthy of the gift ; yet, as many circumstances are to be considered, by people in a certain rank of life, it is never amiss to remind a woman that she has a heart, which, perhaps in the best of the sex, is the most susceptible of tender impressions. Adieu ! my dearest Cecilia ; I am ever happy in subscribing myself, the sincerest of your friends,

LUCY HARVEY.

LET-

L E T T E R X X X I .

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

J U N E 5 .

OH! my dear, my valued friend, I am deeply engaged in your embarrassment; I think I see it plainer than you do yourself, notwithstanding that penetration and understanding, far beyond your years, which you are so well kown to possess; but there *are* circumstances, there *are* matters wherein we cannot always judge for ourselves.

Forgive me, Miss Neville; but neither the ill disposition you think you perceive in Casswell, nor even the indisposition of your mother, gives me so much anxiety as your own situation, with regard to this amiable Mr. Carey. Shall I be plain with you? I fear he has won your heart. Nor can I wonder at the conquest, 'great as it is, if he

3

possesses

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possesses those accomplishments which you have mentioned. Indeed the very solicitude you express of guarding against his passions, in the manner you express it, seems to me to confirm this truth. But even should this be so, perhaps you will ask, what can be done? It is indeed more easy in cases of this nature, to observe the embarrassment, than to point out the means by which it may be avoided. You say my dear, that you have already taken every precaution to avoid his being alone, or particular with you; but at the same time, you seem to intimate that you have not succeeded. What more to advise is indeed a very difficult, at the same time that it may be thought a very proper task for a friend to undertake. Since to avoid your lover at present is hardly practicable, and to see him without danger is impossible, yet nothing can be added to the conduct you have adopted, but a most hearty endeavour to banish from your thoughts this too lovely youth, as there seems so little likelihood of your
ever

ever being happy in him as a husband.
This is all that can at present be advised by

Your ever affectionate friend,

LUCY HARVEY.

LETTER

L E T T E R XXXII.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

J U N E 7.

ALAS! my dear! is it not plain, that I proved too true a prophetess? Certainly I know more of my amiable friend's heart than she herself does; but surely you need not fear my upbraidings; I am convinced that he must be so perfectly deserving whom you could approve, that I know not how to pass the least censure on what circumstances, however at present, must forbid me to approve.

I am however of opinion, my Cecilia, that your case is not much the more embarrassed by a declaration which you expected every day, especially as you put off the answer you were to give him, which I doubt not will be such as may not disgrace your prudence; and if Mr. Carey be in
reality,

reality, such as I apprehend by your description, he will doubtless not endeavour to take the least advantage of the esteem you bear him. I mean not by this to suggest that Miss Neville could have a lover who would venture to offer any thing but on honourable terms; all I mean is, that I hope Mr. Carey is possessed of too much generosity and consideration, to urge any thing which may involve you in any embarrassment. He who loves truly will never injure the woman whom he loves, for the sake of gratifying his passion, though even in the most honourable way, if he possesses sentiment and delicacy. These it seems have been apparently conspicuous in your lover; and next to the dictates of your own good sense, I see nothing that you can more properly rely upon. Prove this favoured youth in the nicest point that can affect a man of true feeling and sensibility—either way you will be likely to draw an advantage from such a trial. Should he prefer the gratification of his desires to the consideration of that

obedience

obedience which you owe your parents, and that of your happiness, your esteem of him being lessened, you will be the more easily capable of repressing your love; on the other hand, if he proves to be the generous suitor, he will himself assist you in overcoming your embarrassments and his own; he will either be so fully convinced of the impropriety of a mutual passion, as to use every means, however painful, to suppress it; or he will be moderate in his professions of it, and indefatigable in endeavouring to remove those obstacles which fortune has thrown in the way, if they should not prove absolutely insurmountable. Thus you see, my dear, that the eclaircissement, that you most feared, by bringing things to a point, has furnished you with an apparent opportunity of adopting some certain method of conduct, which may yet be the means of bringing all to a happy issue, which is the sincere wish of your

LUCY HARVEY.

LET

L E T T E R XXXIII.

MISS CECILIA NEVILLE,

MISS LUCY HARVEY. "

J U N E 18.

YES, my Lucy, you judge right, the amiable, the worthy Mr. Carey, who for two days attended my reply to his addressee in respectful silence, at length began to shew by the language of his eyes, that he expected from me to receive a deliverance from the cruel suspense in which he was held. In consequence of this, on the third morning I suffered myself, insensibly as it were, to be left alone with him in the saloon, I doubted not but he would improve the opportunity ; yet even then his diffidence, which was visible in his countenance, while he discoursed with me on indifferent subjects, had nearly occasioned him to drop that in
which

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which both of us were so intimately concerned. I confess, my dear, for the first time, I feared least he should do so; not that the most ardent lover that was ever remembered amongst our sex, could entertain a doubt of the strength of his affection; but my fear arose from the apprehension, that I myself should still remain in a suspense, little less disagreeable to me, than this had proved to him. I wished that decorum would have permitted me to make the first advances; as it would not, I remained silent: but what design on either side could not affect, was at length brought about by accident. Yet, were I given to superstition, I might be led to deem it a fatal omen. A small miniature of my father, which I have ever impendant in my bosom, and which, without well knowing what I was about, I was employed in playing with, being suddenly loosened, fell upon the floor. Mr. Carcy instantly seized the opportunity of taking it up, and presenting it to me, the very situation in which
it

it ought to have been placed, naturally raised a crimson blush upon my cheek, and threw me into some confusion! Having endeavoured in vain to fasten it again, I took out a small case which contained a few trinkets, and there deposited it for the present. Mr. Carey then fetching a deep sigh, exclaimed “How happy would be the lover who could have even his portrait placed in that elysium where this was once; — how much happier, who could raise a tender thought in that soft bosom; but this, Miss Neville, I apprehend to be the portrait of Sir John. A father’s is a dear relation; yet a lover’s, madam,” — And here he stopped —

“May be *as dear*, sir,” (returned I) “when honour says his actions and prudence can support those of the beloved object.”

“Ah! madam!” (cried he, a little more emboldened) “can there be a doubt of the honour of him who is ready

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ready to sacrifice every thing that is dear to him, even life itself, to the mistress of his affections."

"Are there indeed many such—Mr. Carey?"

"That, madam, is a question which I confess, I am not able to resolve; but if I could judge by my own heart,"——

Here he paused.

"The heart" (replied I) "is sometimes found to be deceitful, and we ought to question it closely, in matters of this nature. Self-denial is a painful virtue."

"It is so, madam, but I have questioned mine, and am certain that I can undergo any self-denial for her I love. And having made this declaration, may I hope an answer from the fair one who possesses my soul?"——

"You

tures are lovers ! at one time they are all enlivened by hope, at another, can scarcely be assured of any thing by any means ; I am such a novice, Lucy, in the science, that this excited my surprize ; however, I assured Mr. Carey, of every thing that prudence could warrant, and he is now admitted my suitor, but I think, under such restrictions as are unexceptionable.

Thus have I, my friend, to the best of my capacity, followed your excellent scheme ; and I should even entertain a hope, that this good youth might become agreeable to my father and mother, were it not for a hint that has been given me by the latter, who is now recovering fast from her indisposition, that Sir John has already fixed his eye upon one whom he intends me for a husband, and who is of noble extraction. Her ladyship has also added, that this is the only time when she has found her husband so determined in an affair of this nature ; and this was the cause of my adding what I did, to my

discourse with Mr. Carey.—This, you will say, renders self-denial more necessary than ever; what is that, but saying, that it renders it still more necessary that your friend should be miserable. Adieu! believe me to be ever yours,

CECILIA NEVILLE.

LETTER

LETTER XXXIV.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

J U N E 10.

MY father is returned, my dear Lucy, and every circumstance seems to confirm what I mentioned in my last ; he has already told me, that he has selected for me a lover so unexceptionable, that perverseness itself can alone urge me to refuse him. I could only answer, that as I had determined never to transgress his will in point of marriage, so I hoped the best of fathers would continue the same conduct he had ever adopted, with regard to mine. Hear his answer.

“ Cecilia,” replied he, “ I have but few words to say at present on this subject. Hitheto, your mother and myself have perfectly agreed, in our private thoughts, with your refusals ; the same good sense which led you to

H 3

them,

them, if you still possess it, I doubt not will now lead you to an acceptance of what is hereafter to be proposed to you. An affectation of absolute aversion to marriage, is as foolish as it is unnatural. As to your youth, many younger than you are mothers, and it must be the worst of griefs, to a family like ours, to see a child's obstinacy leave us as it were without remembrance. An unworthy attachment, I cannot think you have formed; any secret one is beneath that openness, that generous confidence which you have always reposed in us, and which is your greatest praise. I would have you consider these matters, Cecilia, even before I name the person to you, and you shall know my will at another opportunity."

There were many things in this speech, to which I attended, that must affect me.—“An unworthy attachment—a secret correspondence!” from whence soever my father got his ideas of these, they made a strong impression

pression upon my heart. "Ah!" said I to myself, "what is now become of that confidence in my parents, which was once my greatest praise? Must I either lose their esteem, or forfeit my own happiness? Who can this unknown lover be, whom it would be the height of obstinacy to refuse? And what perfections can he boast that are superior-- Ah! what that will be found equal to those of Harry Carey?"—But I must attend the farther explanation of my parents will, and when that is revealed, how shall I stand in opposition to it?

In the *interim*, I cannot but observe, that my mother grows more and more prejudiced in favour of Mr. Casswell, who is returned hither, after having been received (as I find) in the most affectionate manner by his father. I observe what you say, my dear, concerning prejudices against particular persons; I would avoid them if possible; but do you not take notice, that mine against this young man, has its foundation in something

amiss in his character? I agree with you, indeed, that people may be good company, whose conduct is not quite unexceptionable; yet surely I may be allowed on the other hand to observe, that persons of ill principles, and an insinuating address, are often dangerous. I do not pretend absolutely to form judgements; but to you, as to my second self, I express my apprehensions; if they are ill founded, I know that you will bear with the weakness, while you correct the errors of
of

Your ever sincere,

And affectionate,

CECILIA NEVILLE.

LETTER

L E T T E R XXXV.

M I S S I S A B E L L A C L I F F O R D

T O

M I S S E M I L I A C L I F F O R D

J U N E 21.

SO, the plot is out at last; Mr. Carey is now more than enamoured of Miss Neville; he is absolutely dying for her, it is apparent in all his actions; the lady entertains a mutual passion for him, such as I fear will be visible to every body; I say, I *fear* it, because I do not see any likelihood of the courtship turning out to the satisfaction of the parties. Sir John is now returned, and as I think, seems a little ruffled in his temper, a thing not very common with him; yet he behaves with great seeming complacency to Mr. Carey;—and as to Mr. Casswell, he appears to be in high favour with every body, except it be Miss Neville, who I think looks rather cool

upon him : But perhaps this may be only imagination ; but the love affair I speak of is certain, though the young lady has not thought fit to make me her confidante ; at which circumstance I am not a little pleased, as I should not well know what part to act in the affair, if I had been honoured with so high a trust.

Besides, you know, Emily, I told you that I had an *affair* of my own ; and I assure you, it is still in a good way. My lord, though not a resident, is a constant visitant, and I have only to say the word, “ And I shall be a lady, and ride in a gilded coach.” My charms are so great, that even those of Miss Neville have not been able to make any impression upon my noble lover ; so constant is his attachment.

I have just heard, that our amiable Harry has been prevailed on to accept an appointment from Sir John, which, (if I guess right) is calculated for no other end than that of removing him
from

“from his person and councils for ever,” according to the phrase of our modern patriots. However that may be, Harry does not seem to look upon the matter in such a light. I find indeed, that at first he demurred on it, on principles of independance and delicacy (such as are sufficient always to prevent a man from rising in the world) but being assured, that these will not be invaded, he has consented to take an obligation from his friend the baronet, though he does not chuse to accept one from his sovereign : yet, by the bye, I do not find that he is in any hurry to take possession of the plate ; he is willing, a little longer to bask in the sunshine of his Cecilia’s eyes ; whose beams, however, he can scarcely bear ; while she, on her part, is all confusion whenever she meets him. • Pretty enough this, to those concerned ! but I must own, my taste is hardly refined enough for a great deal of it ; or perhaps the ill treatment I have met with, and the insincerity of the professions of some, may have

H 6 given

given me a kind of disgust to those of others, who may be more sincere. In effect, I believe I have found out a secret, Emily, that I do not know whether I ought to trust you with; it is however, no more than this, that the sentimental feelings of youth, are too apt to decay as we advance in life, and to leave every day more and more of a kind of selfishness behind, which being constantly increased by our knowledge of the world, contributes not a little to pall our taste for pleasure, and to make us admire at that sensibility in others, which we ourselves were once possessed of. As we proceed farther towards maturity, this disposition gains ground upon us, and perhaps becomes one of the principal characteristics of old age. Heaven, which formed us, had doubtless wise ends in view, in appointing this alteration; but I am ill at these enquiries, they belong to philosophers, and if we may believe what is the general opinion of mankind, philosophers are not much the happier for them.—So I shall
break

break off here, only desiring that what has already been said, may stand as a sufficient apology for any seeming want of sensibility in

Your affectionate

ISABELLA CLIFFORD.

LETTER

L E T T E R X X X V .

G E O R G E C A S S W E L L , E S Q .

T O

M R . J O H N T U R N E R .

M A Y 17 .

WELL; Jack, I believe all things will be brought to bear at last, here I am at Neville-Place again, and Emily likewise will be here soon. I am well with Sir John, and highly in her ladyship's good graces. The rest are complaisant to me, and that is all I desire, as that will be sufficient for every thing necessary for my purpose.

I have observed, almost ever since I have been here, a propensity in the baronet to serve Mr. Carey, whose will, as he used to say, demanded every one's acknowledgement. To him I perceive he intends to give his daughter, Cecilia, in marriage; but as I do not intend that he should, it is an
hundred

hundred to one at least, if ever it is effected. I have a husband in my eye for her, quite another sort of a man than Harry Carey; one who perhaps may not seem so entirely agreeable to the lady, as not being quite so sentimental. So romantic a lover, you know I do not correspond with people of that stamp, except when I cannot help it. But such as he is, he has made himself agreeable to other women before now, so that I do not see any reason why he should not be accepted. He was recommended to me by one of their own family too, though that indeed is a circumstance which I shall rather chuse to suppress, as honest Ned Neville is not at present greatly in the good graces of his kindred. Ned is a hearty chearful companion, *and one of us*; his expences having therefore, ~~more~~ ^{more} than once, driven him to solicit the baronet's assistance, he is deemed an extravagant fellow, so that his word will have no weight with them. Methinks I hear thee say now, "Who has been more addicted to ~~ex~~travagance

I

gance

gance than George Casswell?" True! but then thou knowest, Jack, I am become a penitent; and a reformed sinner is at any time the next degree to a saint, which to me must be a comfortable reflexion.

In order to secure success in my operations, I have proceeded, as thou wilt own, in the most masterly manner; for I have begun with the weaker vessel. I have insinuated myself so far into the favour of Lady Neville, that she has been for some time ready to give credit to my assertions, and to listen to me as to an oracle. This alone is sufficient to flatter one of less vanity than myself; but as vanity here is not the principal consideration, it must not be too far indulged. Her ladyship's influence upon her husband will prove of the greatest service to me. I have already, with much seeming reluctance, pointed out to her several faults in the seeming faultless Harry Carey, and have gone so far as to hint some reasons why it would be improper

improper to join him in the holy bonds of wedlock with Miss Neville. For his part, I believe, he does not dream that the good people have any such intention, yet I mistake greatly if he has not an ardent desire to carry on a secret correspondence with the girl, on which it is easy to build his ruin. Faith, Jack, there is not one of these sentimental virtuous boasters, that will not yield before the charms of a fine woman, or that may not be seduced into every thing which they call *evil*, by her allurements. What ~~then~~ is this virtue, which they pique themselves upon? What but a habit, as once abstaining from such excesses of, they have little inclination to run into, and a violent propensity to censure other people, even for what they themselves ~~are~~ guilty of? Even Miss Neville, who is reckoned a pattern of virtue, for her sex, on account of that very sentimental turn, which is so much admired in her, is now in a fair way to be guilty of such errors, as her greatest admirers will not be able to excuse.

I re-

I rejoice when I see those boasters humbled, who have the folly and effrontery to consider themselves as superior to *us*, who act merely upon the principle of self-love and interest, and fairly and honestly tell the world that. However, we need not envy them, since they so often fall, and when they seem ever so much to persevere, their virtue generally proves its own reward. Let them enjoy *this shadow of a mighty name*, as the Roman Brutus called it, while we know how to improve life, by enjoying the real substantial sweets of it, and thus in some measure make ourselves amends for the shortness of its duration. As I know thou art perfectly of my opinion in those points, so I doubt not of thy assistance in every thing that may be required of thee. By the inclosed paper will be seen what remains for thee to do; for my own part, all my operations are suspended for the present. They will commence again at the arrival of Emily, which is eagerly wished for, by thy friend,

GEORGE CASSWELL.

L E T T E R XXXVII.

H E N R Y C A R E Y, E S Q.

T O

C H A R L E S M O R L E Y, E S Q.

J U N E 13.

I AM happy indeed, my dear Charles, if the love of the most beautiful and most deserving of her sex, can make me so. My letter at first, indeed, received but a dubious answer; but a favourable opportunity afterwards offering, I received a more explicit one; when the fair one confessed—yes, Charles, she confessed her esteem for me, whilst her eyes told me that esteem was but another word for love! But, at the same time that she made this confession, she gave me to understand her resolution of paying a perfect obedience to the commands of her father, in a matter of so serious a nature as matrimony; a resolution which I could not but approve, even while I almost foresaw it must prove fatal to my hopes.

hopes.—Think what a circumstance this is for a lover!—The idol of my heart tells me that she has reason to imagine her father and mother will never approve of her joining me in marriage.—And can I, of all men in the world, persuade her to disoblige them? No, my friend, even though the bewitching charmer should be ready to yield herself, all beauteous as she is, to my arms, yet never could I prevail on myself so far to forget what is due to honour and to the laws of hospitality, as to accept the offer. Alas! it is too plain that there is no relief for me!—Though I have had a glimpse of Elysium, I must never hope to enjoy it, but shall be condemned to pine whole years in hopeless love—yet even this is nothing to what I feel on account of the excellent Cecilia. ~~It is~~ plain that the dear maid entertains the most tender regard for me. What then must be the conflict between love and honour in her tender bosom? The very thought is sufficient to distract me. Ah! who knows the dreadful effects.

effects which such a situation may produce in her delicate frame ! I am led almost to accuse myself for having ever disclosed to her my unhappy passion ; better had it been for ever smothered in my breast ; better had it been for me to have borne my lot alone, than thus to have involved her with me, and communicated all the pangs of hopeless love. If I must be for ever unhappy, how much will my fate be embittered by reflecting at the same time that I have ruined

“ The fairest, loveliest form that Heav’n e’er made ! ”

But there is another passion besides that of love, which is too apt to take place in our bosoms in such a situation. If my Cecilia has reason to believe her parents will not approve of an alliance with me, and if there are reasons, which, as she said, *it is not proper to disclose*, have I not the greatest cause to suspect that Sir John has some other person in view for whom he intends his daughter. Yet, if he has, what right have I to complain ; I who am
under

under such obligations to him ;—Yes, it is to these that I shall owe my unhappiness ;—more than even my want of fortune, these will stand in my way, and prove obstacles to every attempt that I can make of gaining Cecilia. I have endeavoured to weigh all these things together in the balance of reason ; I question whether I am capable of doing it ; but which way soever I turn myself ; I find innumerable difficulties, such as I fear it will prove impossible for me ever to surmount.—Casswell has of late been very assiduous to oblige me ; if appearances may be credited ; he is quite reformed in regard to those points wherein he was faulty, his own parents seem convinced that he is, and he is in the highest favour with the mother of ~~my~~ Cecilia. That circumstance, Charles, leads me not to slight his proffered friendship. I have already observed that her ladyship was rather cool towards me of late ; perhaps, by his means, I may come at the cause of this coolness, which I think it ~~imports me~~ ^{important to} me much

much to know. I shall therefore be less reserved to him, though I think it by no means proper to intrust him with the secret of my heart.—At this very moment he is enquiring for me.—Adieu!—You shall soon hear again from

Your, &c.

HENRY CAREY.

LETTER

L E T T E R XXXVIII.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

JULY 8.

MY new friend has assured me of his good offices ; he farther says, that he believes he can penetrate into the reason of Lady Neville's reserve, though at present he does not chuse to mention his opinion of it, which he says takes its source from an origin that I little suspect. He adds that, he believes, Miss Clifford has some cause of resentment against me, and if I understand him aright, he would intimate that this lady has conceived a passion for me, to which it has excited her anger, to find I make no return. If it be so, I am sorry for it, as I cannot but consider this as a new misfortune ; doubly so, as I cannot endure the thoughts of giving pain to any one, and as there is no knowing the consequences of a resentment of this nature. Yet what can I do, I never

ever been respectfully complaisant to that young lady, and to alter my behaviour, so as to make it more particular now, is what you may be sure I cannot think of doing. Indeed this intimation surprises me, as I always looked upon Miss Clifford as a lady, who, having already met with a disappointment in a love affair, would be extremely cautious to guard her heart against any future attachment; but there is no accounting for the affections of the mind in others, we can scarcely account for our own. If this be so, I can only wish the lady had fixed hers upon one who had the power of returning them. I may well seem insensible on my part to her displeasure, which, as I have never wilfully incurred, nor have I received any external marks of it. Mr. Casswel has promised to give me a further insight into this affair, with this advice upon the subject, which, however I shall weigh well before I determine upon any thing. Certainly this young gentleman understands a great deal of life,

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and has an understanding above his years: I hope he has not learned the fashionable vice of insincerity; I can conceive no interest he can have in practising upon me, and I think my conduct is such as deserves not to be deceived.

Alas! what do I say! how should I be confounded, were any one knowing the secret of my love, to stand forth and reproach me with it? Might he not say, "Canst thou boast of a free and open behaviour, who art at this time urging a clandestine correspondence with the daughter of thy friend and patron."—What a close accuser is the heart, at least mine has ever proved so to me, when I have been guilty of an evil or improper action. — Yet, I will silence all accusation, I will resolve to dare to be honourable, whatever pains it may cost me to keep the resolution. I will scorn to ~~lose~~ this treasure of my soul by any other method than that of asking her of her father—I will wait a while till I can ~~ask~~ farther

farther sound the intentions of Sir John, till I can find whether there is any happy youth designed for her arms—should the father prove inexorable, I must abandon my hopeless love, I will then quit Neville Place, requesting no more of the baronet, than that he will still persist in the manner he has hitherto persevered in, of not forcing his child's inclinations, at the same time that I will conjure her to drive me from her thoughts, so sacrificing so much at least to duty. This done, I will endeavour to bear my fate with resignation, rather than make a worthy family unhappy.

I had almost forgot to observe, that the younger sister of Miss Clifford, has received a pressing invitation to make one of our company at Neville-Place, where she will no doubt be a very welcome guest. I can add no more at present, but wish you to pity,

Your affectionate friend,

HENRY CAREY.

L E T T E R XXXIX.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

JULY 15.

MY misfortune, dear Morley, is inevitable.—I have had another conversation with Mr. Casswell, he has given me what I think amounts to demonstration, of the passion of Miss Clifford, and I really think I recollect some circumstances which tend to confirm it. He has gone farther; he has suggested that Lady Neville being made the confidant of her love, approves, and that chiefly because the success of it would deliver her from a thousand fears, which she entertains of my designs upon her daughter.

“ Designs upon her daughter!”
Heavens, do you believe that, Charles. Can I be suspected of any but the most honourable designs? Yet this is the occasion of her coolness towards me—in effect, she suspects my love; whether she has communicated her surmises

L E T T E R XLIII.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

AUGUST 4.

WELL! I have executed my project, and you shall hear how it succeeded. I am really sorry that the fond turtles are so far gone in love; yet I cannot help entertaining a sort of prejudice against Harry, who, to use the men's expression, has treated me very *cavalierly*. When I write to a man again, I shall deserve, and patiently receive, still worse treatment.

Sir John is still all goodness; but as to Lady Neville, she looks as if she meant more than she chose to say. I wonder what is the matter with her. As to Harry, he can scarcely be favoured a moment with her conversation. Perhaps I guess the reason of that. But there is something more to be guessed at yet. Sir John's niece,
who

who like a comet (pray mind the simile.) Are you good at similes? Now I really am fond of them, when they are apt ones; though I do not approve them in some modern authors, who,

“Liken things, that are not like at all.”

But to return; Sir John's niece, who like a comet suddenly visited us, and as suddenly retired, is expected here again shortly. Now I really had set her down for Casswell's mistress. It would have been a pity indeed, if I should not have stayed to see the event of my conjecture. Oh! you cannot conceive how sober, how prudent, the young gentleman I speak of, is grown. Well! he has really many accomplishments, and if he is in earnest resolved to apply them rightly, he may make a figure in life. He has a good person, and wants not for penetration; in effect, he seems well calculated to go through the world; and I assure you, without being a lord, in many things he eclipses my humble servant Lord Richmore.

Richmore. Indeed the latter is a most cruel man ; I am afraid I must absolutely discard him :—absent a whole week, and not one *billet-doux* ; it is not in nature, (I mean in *woman's* nature) to bear it. Oh ! how unlike the sentimental, sighing, constant Harry Carey ; sure he would die, if he were not to draw every day fresh life from his fair mistress's engaging looks, and enchanting conversation. Should he be absent ;—can he bear the thought ! And yet I fear he must. But all this is rambling at a strange rate ; however, you will excuse me, Emily, for using every means to divert my chagrin, when you read the inclosed letters, the latter of which you will easily perceive was intended merely to vex me, and not ill calculated for this purpose, according to the meridian of woman's vanity. But I will not anticipate ;—the thing will speak for itself, and therefore I entirely submit it to your judgment. Read and determine.

Your affectionate,

ISABELLA CLIFFORD.

L E T T E R XLIV.

MISS ISABELLA CLIFFORD,

T O

H E N R Y C A R E Y, E S Q.

AUGUST 3.

S I R,

WERE I not fully acquainted with the good sense, of which you are possessed, I might think more apologies necessary for this letter, than at present I may use.

However it may seem to be interfering in your affairs, yet, as I have been made the confidante of a passion, which you entertain for Miss Neville, my regard for that worthy family, on the one hand, and the esteem I have conceived for your character on the other, have urged me to address a few words to you upon the subject.

Give me leave, sir, in the most friendly manner, to remonstrate to you
on

on the little likelihood there ever could be of your succeeding in such a suit, if you take the honourable and fair method, of applying to Sir John for his consent, who has in effect already declared, that he designs his daughter for another. To proceed clandestinely, is what I hope is far from your thoughts; nor do I think the lady herself would favour such a proceeding. In this view of things, you never can obtain her in marriage; but there is one thing that you *can*, and very probably *will* do, and that is no other, than to make the object of your affections miserable. The weakness of the most intelligent of our sex, may render her unhappy, though it may not be sufficient to induce her to commit a wrong, or an imprudent action. If you weigh these things well, surely your good sense will convince you, of the necessity there is, of no longer abandoning yourself to a fruitless passion, which must prove detrimental to your honour or your happiness.

Females are not supposed to be possessed of such a degree of firmness, in these matters, as men. When a woman has once given way to love, it is hard indeed for her to recover from the pleasing delusion; especially if she has a heart susceptible of tender impressions. This is more properly the part of your sex; it is to you, sir, who inspired Miss Neville with tender sentiments, that she can alone be strengthened in her resolutions of conquering them. This indeed will be a task worthy of Mr. Carey. Though it may include a painful self-denial, yet it will be recompensed by a most noble victory. Your own happiness, and Miss Neville's, depend on your exerting yourself upon this occasion: The means are in your power; but it is not for me to advise farther; as I can only add, that absence is generally allowed to be the best cure for love; which I conceive is a truth that most of your sex are no strangers to; you will best judge, whether it may not be proper in this case. What-
ever

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ever be the remedy, it is most proper that the motion should come from you;—at least, this is the opinion of one of the sincerest of Miss Neville's friends, and, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

ISABELLA CLIFFORD.

LETTER

L E T T E R XLV.

H E N R Y C A R E Y, E S Q.

T O

M I S S I S A B E L L A C L I F F O R D.

M A D A M,

A U G U S T 3.

I H A D the favour of your letter, and must confess myself to be much obliged to you for your advice ; though I know not how much I am so, for the motives which occasioned you to give it. I am sorry that Miss Neville should have urged you on our affairs, unhappy as they are, it was never my wish to involve any other person in our perplexities. That the fair sex are susceptible of tender impressions, is a truth, of which many are too sensible. But the unhappiness of some, arises from these being mutual, that of others, from their not being returned. Where the *latter* is the case, indeed every method ought in reason to be used to suppress it, and absence has been found very effectual. How people

4• ple

THE EMBARRASSED LOVERS.~ 197

ple should conduct themselves in the former case, is what a third person can seldom be capable of judging; but Miss Clifford, and all the world, may rest assured, that I shall never act dishonourably, in any situation whatsoever. Perhaps the lady, to whom this is addressed, may herself, however, have a full conviction, how painful the conflict must be, before that victory can be gained over the passions, which she so strenuously recommends to lovers.

You will acknowledge, madam, that I have treated this subject on its proper footing; I shall only add, that both Miss Neville and myself, must necessarily be highly obliged to you, for the concern which you express for our happiness; for which, please to accept the thanks of him, who has the honour of subscribing himself, madam,

Your very obedient,

humble servant,

HENRY CAREY.

L E T T E R XLVI.

JAMES MAYNARD, ESQ.

T O

HENRY CAREY, ESQ.

AUGUST 10.

IT was with pleasure, my dear kinsman, that I heard your determination of accepting the appointment intended you by Sir John Neville, who, as I find by one of his late letters, is highly charmed with your behaviour, and is studying how in every respect to promote your interest; and as you are calculated to succeed in life, I have hopes to find, that you will be enabled to retrieve your circumstances, and to attain that height of fortune, which once was the lot of your ancestors, and which you are not of a disposition to abuse. For though I would never have you make wealth your idol, yet I can never advise you to despise it.
riches,

riches, well used, cannot but contribute to happiness, as they put it in our power to live comfortably ourselves, and to oblige our friends, if they should be in need of our service.

I am pleased to find, that you have an intention to put in Mr. M——, to officiate for you in quality of a deputy; I much approve your choice, as I think he has two recommendations, the one his capacity, and the other his distress. To search out merit in obscurity, is certainly a noble principle, and I should always prefer that mode of relief, which, by providing some kind of employment for the person, may render him useful, and give him at the same time, an opportunity of not languishing beneath a load of obligation, which may be sometimes even too much for a generous mind to bear. The blessings of this man and his family, will certainly attend you, when they hear of this your determination; which however, it will not be proper to mention, till it is near time for him to enter upon his office.

My dear Harry, I have still greater prospects for you in life, than you can imagine, but of these at present I cannot give you intimation; I can only repeat, that a youth of your accomplishments ought to hope for everything, whilst you adhere to the principles of virtue and honour, which I have not the least doubt but you will never depart from; and whilst I entertain this opinion, I feel the warmest satisfaction, in assuring you, that I am

Your affectionate kinsman,

JAMES MAYNARD.

LETTER

L E T T E R XLVII.

G E O R G E C A S S W E L L, E S Q.

T O

M R. J O H N T U R N E R.

A U G U S T 12.

EMILY is at length arrived, and I doubt not but all things will go on as I intended; for all is now in an excellent train. But thou hast had a great deal of patience to wait so long without knowing any thing of my intentions. Now in return for this, I will condescend to give thee some little notion of the matter, yet I shall not anticipate too much, even in compassion to thee, as I would not deprive thee of the pleasure which will arise from the unravelling of my plot.

However, as a general idea of this matter, I will give thee to understand, that young Carey's passion for Miss
K 5 Neville,

Neville, being by no means to my purpose to encourage, I am resolved if possible, to prevent a match between them from taking place.

Now methinks I hear thee say, “Oh! thou unconscionable fellow!—Now thou art not contented with a design upon one girl, but another must be attempted.—Cecilia Neville, and her fortune; a marriage scheme I suppose.”

Yes, it is a marriage scheme; but thou wast never more deceived in thy life, than in imagining that I intend to get my neck into the noose.

“Why then not suffer Harry Carey to intangle himself in it as soon as possible?”

Why, because I have another in my eye for Miss Neville, whom I shall be graciously pleased, on certain considerations, to introduce to her. At the same time that I shall make this
serve

serve as an under-plot to my design upon Emily Clifford.

Already I perceive my plan begins to operate. The first thing I endeavoured, was to gain the confidence of Lady Neville, in which I succeeded to a miracle, and have suggested to her a hundred reasons, against the expediency of marrying her daughter to Harry Carey, for whom I find she was intended ; though this has been kept a secret from the young people, in order to see what turn their desires would take, and to try whether the young fellow would prove himself worthy of such an heiress, as Miss Neville will be. It is upon this ground that I have hitherto worked.—I have also gained the confidence of Harry Carey, to whom I have given strong hints of his being secretly beloved by Miss Clifford, which have already had some effect, and cannot fail of being greatly instrumental in bringing about the *dénouement*, which the arrival of Emily, though not quite so soon as I expected, will hasten.

Now, Jack, dost thou not begin to perceive, that there is no ground for supposing me to have any design upon the person or fortune of Miss Neville? Indeed, if I had, the matter would not be brought to bear; and I should be glad to transfer all my claims to another.

The means I have taken, for preventing the lovers from coming together, are such as will produce them indeed much anxiety; but I am persuaded, they never will know to whom they are indebted for the favour; while their parents, on the other hand, will thank me for my kindness, and thus I shall be applauded, for following my own inclinations.

When wilt thou, Jack, be half so happy in thy invention? I grant indeed, that under direction thou dost well enough; thou art tolerably well calculated to perform an under part; but Nature never intended thee as a principal actor in any intrigues, either
of

of love or of business. No, there thou must yield to me: As indeed, who must not? But, as time will convince thee of this truth, infinitely better than all I can say, I shall refer thee to that period, which perhaps is not far distant, when thou wilt allow, that in matters of this kind, Machiavel himself, if living, could never have proved himself superior to

GEORGE CASSWELL.

LETTER

L E T T E R XLVIII.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

AUGUST 15.

ONE would almost imagine, Jack, that these good and wise people at Neville-Place, were in a scheme against themselves; or, as my friend Bayes has it, “That Prince Volscius had laid a plot against Prince Volscius.” It seems, that Miss Neville has made Isabella Clifford a confidante, whose delicacy, and fear of being led into any measure, that might appear to be a violation of the laws of hospitality, (together with her great regard for her dear Cecilia) has occasioned her to write an impertinent sort of a letter to Harry, upon the subject; which, at the same time, that it tends to confirm all I said, by making him think the girl jealous, has so far touched his irascible qualities, that he can scarcely keep them within bounds. He has re-
turned

turned her a sharp kind of answer, which is of such a nature (for I have seen the copies of both letters) as I am sure must put her into a fine glow of vexation. I find also, that she intends to quit us soon ; but her sister is to remain here these two months. This also is the very thing I wanted, and cannot fail of answering my expectations, both in preventing Harry Carey's marriage with Miss Neville, and in forwarding my designs upon the other girl, whose temper does not appear to be at all suspicious, though she is of a very serious turn, and occasionally vastly sentimental, as it is fashionable for us all to be here, and to which, even I, in certain particular cases, have no great objection.

Harry has just now been with me, to consult what he shall do, in the present state of his affairs.—What an unaccountable creature man is ; and how he deals in contrarities ? You are to understand, that Miss Clifford, in her precious billet, advised him to
adopt

adopt the remedy of absence; at this he was much offended; yet he listened very patiently to me, whilst I prescribed the very same remedy, which he *now* seems disposed to adopt. This it is to have a persuasive method; to a person possessed of this gift, men are but mere machines or puppets, which he plays at will, and they are almost always sure of effecting whatsoever they undertake. This may be properly concluded to be the source of that success which some people so constantly meet with, and which fools attribute to fortune or good luck; for my part, I was always of that opinion, and events have generally turned out accordingly. But, as I think I have said enough on this subject, to convince thee of my superior understanding in this science, I shall take leave of thee for the present, having but just room to subscribe myself,

Thine,

GEORGE CASSWELL.
LETTER

L E T T E R XLIX.

MISS EMILIA CLIFFORD.

T O

M R S. S E W E L L.

AUGUST 16.

YES, my dear madam, I hope I shall always justify your opinion of me, by regulating my conduct by the dictates of reason, and surely it would have been most unreasonable in me, to have given the least encouragement, to the addresses of a man, whom I did not, whom I could not love. Never shall I entertain the thought of entering into the matrimonial state, with any one whom I cannot absolutely prefer to all the rest of his sex. I know not that I have yet seen that person. You know I scorn affectation. There is a gentleman, indeed, of the name of Morley, who has made some advances to me; but they have been accompanied with a sort of diffidence

dence so uncommon in gentlemen of his profession, (for he is a military officer) that I could not but think there must be something extraordinary in the matter; and I have received hints, in consequence of an enquiry which I made, that he has some other engagement. I assumed not to myself, indeed, the right of learning the particulars of this matter, but ever since I have been shy of his company. Whether his own secret heart, has suggested to him the reason, I know not; but I assure you, I esteem myself not a little happy, in being delivered from the likelihood of any farther trouble from either of these gentlemen by my removing hither.—To the first, indeed, I have given what I call a final answer, but as I find he does not chuse to esteem it such, I might still have been persecuted by him; the last, has the appearance of being so respectable a lover, that though it is easy to restrain him from any forwardness in his addresses; yet, it is, ~~for~~ for the same reason, almost impossible to get

rid.

rid of them ; the more so, as I have some time since given him to understand, that I would not receive him as a lover, but should be glad of his friendship ; he then told me, he hoped, since that was my situation for the present, I would consent to admit his visits as a tender friend ; (that was his ~~request~~) perhaps, I should, at that very time, have been careful to have extinguished all his hopes, but then I was not acquainted with the circumstance, which I have informed you of. As I wish not to dissemble, I will likewise frankly own to you, that though I never entertained the passion of love, for any man, yet he had my esteem ; and what farther progress he might have made, was unknown, even to myself ; but all such ideas are vanished now, and it is doubtless, a happy circumstance for me, that I never loved him.

When I last saw you, dear madam, I endeavoured to give you some idea of the company that I was to enjoy at
Neville-

Neville-Place, which I found every way to answer the description my sister had given me. Our situation is more than agreeable, and notwithstanding some private pursuits of those who make up our parties, as they are too polite, as well as too generous, to mix the consideration of them with our general pleasures, we may properly be said to be happy.

Yesterday Sir John proposed our going to pay a visit to Mr. Barton, a gentleman who resides at the distance of about two miles from Neville-Place. As it was a fine day, we all agreed to *walk*, and we did not repent of the resolution, the country all around us breathing sweets, and the fruits presenting us with a prospect, which, in my opinion, rivals if not exceeds that of spring, even in her gayest dress and brightest bloom. Flowers are indeed agreeable, they are Nature's gaudy livery; but when we consider that these are not the ultimate ~~one~~, that they are only the prelude to what we
are

are to expect, it will certainly give us the higher idea of the works of the Great Creator, considering them, (if I may use the expression,) as a pleasing preface to a still more delightful volume. You, my dear Mrs. Sewell, have often taken pains to instruct me, how much we are to consider the *utility* of a thing, when we speak of its *beauty*. This is certainly true of all the works of art. In this scene of nature I find them both united, while the calm serene mildness of the weather, inspires me with a tranquil pleasure, which the varying face of spring, and the intense heats of summer, never could communicate.

If I am disposed to these kind of reflections, you will not wonder, my dear madam; still less will you admire, when I tell you, that beautiful as the situation of Neville-Place is, I saw yesterday, in our expedition to Mr. Barton's, what I thought still more so; at least, the charms of novelty and variety (which in spite of all that philosophers

losophers can say, do certainly contribute highly to our happiness here below, how rationally I will not determine) these, I say, led me to think so.

Mr. Barton's house, which on the outside is entirely plain, and without ornament, is low, and has a rustic front, but stands upon a great extent of ground, and has many acres of land belonging to it. It was about one o'clock in the afternoon, when we entered this hospitable mansion, the master of which received us with a hearty welcome ; though he appeared not to be so polite as Sir John, whom he treats as a superior. If you weigh, my dear madam, a speech which he made at dinner-time, you will at once conceive his reasons for this manner of behaviour, and the general principles by which his actions are governed.

“ You, Sir John,” said he, “ are a gentleman, and allied by birth to the nobles of this land ; those nobles, who formerly, under the title of barons, made

made so great a figure in this country; it is your place therefore, as it is your glory, to be at the same time hospitable and magnificent. For my part, I cannot boast of such a line of ancestors, my father, grandfather, and great grandfather, indeed had a right to rank themselves as gentlemen; but when I trace my ancestors farther backward, I find them lost in the yeomanry of England. Thus situate, I try always to adapt my manner of life to my pretensions. As on the one hand, I cannot boast of descent, so I have no ambition to appear magnificent to the public eye; but as on the other hand, by the favour my grandfather was in with Charles the Second, our family acquired a plentiful fortune, so I find myself obliged to keep up so much of dignity, as relates to hospitality, and endeavour to give at once, an idea of the gentlemen, and yeomanry of England."

We were entertained, both with freedom and politeness, at this hospitable

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table mansion ; Sir John expressed his approbation in words, the rest of the company did the same in their looks, Mr. Carey especially, who has eyes full of sensibility, which always speak the meaning of his heart.

After dinner, Mr. Barton invited us to go with him to his hermitage, to which we unanimously consented, After having walked through the garden and orchard, we entered a wood, whose thick branches were sufficient to exclude the noon-day sun. When we were come near the middle of this wood, we perceived a little rustic dwelling, whose outside was covered with shells, and embellished with gothic work. Entering here, we were served with wine, sherbet, and fruits, by two young country maidens, who were placed there for that purpose. From thence we proceeded across a little inclosure, to a grotto, which descended by a gentle declivity, to a cavity that formed its inside, which was roofed with an arch of pumice, and all the
various

various rude stones that nature produces, interspersed here and there with shining spar, and other mineral productions, artificial iceicles at the same time depending from the roof, which gradually descended with the declivity of the subterraneous dwelling. Such was the arched roof; but the sides were much more beautiful, being diversified with jasper, chrystal, and a number of shining stones, that glittered with peculiar lustre; the chrystals, in particular, though seemingly placed in the most artless manner, were yet so disposed, that they appeared as so many natural looking glasses, which reflected the forms of every thing around them. All of us much admired the beautiful singularity of this piece of rustic work, which (unlike the generality of grottos) was really constructed on the most just principles, and in which there was nothing, however agreeable, which might not also have been found in a natural grotto. But while we were busied in examining the different fossils that composed it,

Mr. Barton beckoned us to a remote kind of chamber, in this romantic place, which was so gloomy and dark, that the ladies were almost afraid to enter it; but Sir John and Mr. Casswell leading the way, we all followed for some paces, till at length we came to a set of steps, which appeared to be hollowed out of the rude rock, ~~and~~ ^{where} we ascended, not without some difficulty, the gentlemen assisting us, and Mr. Barton smiling, though in a good natured manner, at our perplexity. On this gentleman's pressing hard against the rock—But I am interrupted; so you will excuse me for the present, my dear madam; and give me leave to assure you, how much I am,

Most respectfully,

and most sincerely, yours,

EMILIA CLIFFORD.

LETTER

L E T T E R L.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

AUGUST 17.

MY sister and Mr. Casswell, madam, were the persons that broke in upon my privacy ; the former to communicate some private affairs to me ; and, as to the latter, really I believe he intends to become an humble servant of mine ; as such therefore I am likely to regard him for the future ; but this is foreign to the purpose ; I shall proceed with my narrative, which I suppose will prove agreeable to you.—

On Mr. Barton's pressing hard against the rocky roof of the grotto, a part of it gave way, and we were surprised at its discovering an entrance into a spacious apartment in the story above, which was magnificent beyond description. This was not, however, by any means in the rustic mode ; quite

the contrary ; it was a room constructed in the most elegant modern manner. Pillars, whose frizes and capitals were of gold, supported a rich super-structure, that seemed to aspire to the clouds ; but one half of which was hidden by the appearance of a crimson curtain. The whole terminated above in an azure canopy, which resembled the heavens. The walls of this apartment were almost entirely lined with looking glass ; nor did it want for light, which it received by day from six large windows, none of which had been perceptible to us in the garden, because they fronted the fields, from whence we had the prospect of a beautiful country. Here we drank tea, servants appearing at the ringing of a little silver bell, as if by enchantment ; and when we left the place, to walk in the gardens, Mr. Barton engaged us to return thither to supper. This we readily consented to, though we did not then apprehend that there would be such an addition made to the beauties of the apartment, as we afterwards

wards found to be the case. When we entered the room, we found it glowing with light, though there was not the least appearance of a chandelier, a sconce, or even a candle, from whence the illumination proceeded. The blue canopy now appeared studded with stars, which emulated even the lustre of those that deck the heavens. The floor was covered all over with a green carpet of silk, wrought in such a manner, as to resemble the verdant meadows, interspersed with flowers, nature's own delicate embroidery. The whole scene was charming beyond expression, and two gentlemen and their ladies, who had joined us, begun by walking a minuet in the most graceful manner. Mr. Carey had the honour of Cecilia Neville's hand; and mine was given to Mr. Casswell, while Sir John danced with the third lady, who being a middle-aged woman, was the best suited to his years, of any in the company. All things were conducted with the greatest decorum; and when we were tired with dancing, one of the

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crimson curtains, rising up as it were of itself, presented another apartment to our view, where an elegant entertainment was provided, as if it had been got ready by invisible hands. This was a new and agreeable surprise to us all, and we could not but give the greatest applause, to the contrivance our host made use of, thus nobly to entertain his guests, at the same time that we admired, how the fortune of a private person could support these expences, and rival even nobles in the elegance of his arrangements, when he pleased, at the same time that he professed the greatest plainness, and scarcely pretended even to the rank of a gentleman. But this difficulty was solved, by Mr. Barton himself, who gave us to understand, not only that his grandfather had enjoyed a place of considerable profit at court, but also that his father had acquired a very considerable share of wealth, by the South-sea scheme, which proved the ruin of so many. I found that Mr. Barton employed this wealth,

wealth in a very laudable manner, as besides his subscribing to some public charities, he also made several private donations to distressed families, which rendered him much beloved in the county that he lived in; even Sir John himself has been rivalled by him; yet as this was the emulation of goodness, it produced no coolness between them, though they emulated each other in benevolence, as some people do in extravagance. The contest on either hand, might be considered as nearly equal, as Mr. Barton exceeded in fortune, as to ready money; but Sir John, in his estate and expectations. The humility of the former, which was not at all affected, pleased me much, and seemed to be particularly agreeable to Sir John, of whom, ~~it~~ ^{he} is to be flattered in any way, it may be said to be in this. Refinement of such a kind, indeed, might not be expected from one, who is so fond of adopting the manners of an English ~~man~~ ^{man}; but it has more than once been observed, by persons that know

L 4. life,

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life, that those who profess least, often do the most; and that the most wealthy, are seldom the persons that make the greatest boast of their acquisitions.

It was not till past twelve o'clock at night, that we left this beautiful place; when we were not a little concerned, at the consideration, that it was a dark night, and we had no carriages in waiting. But this difficulty was soon obviated by Mr. Barton, who informed us, that he had beds in his house, which by his order were prepared for his guests. Our walk therefore was but a very short one, and we were happy to find chambers ready for us, where every thing was set in the greatest order. I could not have thought indeed, that this house was capable of accommodating us so well; but Mr. Barton possesses the art, of concealing the most refined elegance, under the appearance of rural simplicity. In truth, it is his endeavour to be considered as the object of no man's envy, while

while his conduct is such, as must naturally excite every man's emulation. Sir John is disposed to consider him in this light, and from thence arises the harmony that subsists between them.

I am now requested to attend my sister, you will therefore, my dear madam, excuse me, and permit me to assure you, how sincerely I shall remain,

Ever yours,

EMILIA CLIFFORD.

LETTER

L E T T E R L I.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

SEPT. I.

IF a young woman's vanity can be flattered, my dear madam, this will be the case with me ; — from the generality of the company here I am perpetually receiving compliments, and Mr. Caswell is so particular with me, that I have already set him down as a lover. This young gentleman's character has been formerly thought to be rather dubious, that is to say, he has been charged with some youthful extravagances which were not agreeable to his parents ; but to them he has since been reconciled, and appears at present in the character of a fine gentleman, which he is well calculated to support. Lady Neville, who is just now recovered from her indisposition, is excessive good company, and Mr. Carey behaves with a kind of tender politeness to us women, which may be properly

properly called the characteristic of his nature.

Miss Neville yesterday betrayed a kind of secret of his, for which we were all much obliged to her. That young lady gave us to understand that he was a poet, and in proof of her assertion produced some verses written by that gentleman on a singular circumstance which occurred during the contest between the Georgians and the Ottoman Porte, a copy of which I send you, Madam, that you may the better judge of the genius and taste of the writer.—

WHERE eastern forests high display'd
 Exclude the noon-tide ray,
 Beneath a tamarisk's green shade
 A beauteous virgin lay.
 Towards Georgian lands and Teflis' tow'rs
 She cast a mournful eye;
 And, mindful of her native bow'rs,
 Heav'd fast the gushing sigh.
 And oft she call'd on Mirza's name;
 " Oh, youth, for ever dear!
 Lend it thou, she cry'd, my vows to claim,
 The meed of love sincere?
 L 6 " Ah!

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- “ Ah ! no !—ere this the savage foe
“ Has shed thy noble life !
“ Doom’d not to view thy country’s woe,
“ Nor mourn thy ravish’d wife :
“ She to stern OTHMAN’s realm convey’d,
“ The desp’rate choice must prove,
“ To sink at once in death’s dim shade,
“ Or meet detested love.
“ Ye Georgian and Circassian swains,
“ Deplore my hopeless doom ;
“ The hand that desolates your plains,
“ Prepares your Abra’s tomb.
“ And lo ! the hostile bands appear,
“ Bright gleaming from afar.
“ In vain I seek for shelter here
“ From all-destroying war.

Then, with distracted air she rose,
And beat her lovely breast ;
Meanwhile unutterable woes
Her tearful eyes express’d.

Trembling she flies ; but flies in vain,
The warriors still pursue ;
O’er hill and dale, and spacious plain
They keep her still in view.

Fainting, at length the virgin bride
On earth’s cold lap is seen,
Attendant warriors at her side
Quick raise her from the green : &

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But no dread foe those eyes beheld ;
Brave Mirza's self was there ;
Alive, victorious from the field,
He clasp'd the blooming fair.

To Georgia's land, in happy hour,
Again the bride was led ;
She hail'd with joy her native bow'r,
And bless'd her Mirza's bed.

You will not doubt but that we professed ourselves much obliged to the lady for this little breach of trust, which she took much pains to excuse to Mr. Carey, who I believe heartily forgave her for what did him so much honour ; and all we continued in high good humour after this discovery, which contributed not more to the pleasure of any one, than it did to that of .

Madam,

Your most sincere, &c.

EMILIA CLIFFORD.

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LETTER LII.

HENRY CAREY, ESQ.

TO

CHARLES MORLEY, ESQ.

SEPT. 10.

I AM reduced now to the last necessity, my dear friend ; I have lost all my resolution, and know not which way to act. I am beloved at once by two deserving females ; this is a circumstance which some might think a happy one ; but I am not inclined to such an opinion ; on the contrary, I think myself most unfortunate on that account. On the one hand, whilst I profess the most ardent love to Miss Neville, and receive from her the assurance of her regard for me, I have the greatest reason to suppose that my love will never be brought to an happy issue ;—whilst on the other hand, Miss Clifford's unhappy passion for me, cannot but produce very bad consequences.

consequences to me, and is likely to make that lady miserable.

These two circumstances have, in effect, broken the union which reigned in this happy family. Lady Neville's coolness towards me increases. I cannot lift my eyes with any confidence up to Sir John. Miss Clifford's company I avoid, as she does mine, with a studious exactness. Her sister indeed appears more communicable. Mr. Casswell, of whom at his first arrival here, I had been taught to entertain no very favourable opinion, is now become the only person with whom I can hold a free and friendly correspondence. His advice is *absence* as a cure for my unfortunate passion, but if I should take this counsel; I must depart suddenly and ~~secretly~~, lest the remedy should otherwise prove worse than the disease. But except this remedy, I see none that can be adopted. I have nothing left but to gain this painful victory over my own heart; and rather

I

consent

consent to be unhappy myself, than to make my best friends so. In the mean time, I have letters of my uncle's, which I know not how to answer. That worthy man, is even now felicitating himself, on the high favour he supposes me to be in with Sir John, and is laying down plans for my future success in life, all which I shall at once defeat;—a circumstance that must naturally give him much anxiety. And thus is my heart torn at once with a thousand perplexities.

I find Miss Isabella Clifford is just gone, and that too with very little ceremony. And Mr. Casswell tells me, what indeed I might well suspect, that I am the cause of her departure. Sure I am born for the injury of all that know me! My thoughts are quite distracted, and every day produces something that adds to my uneasiness. Adieu! my friend, I need not desire you to pity the case of your unhappy

HENRY CASSWELL.

L E T T E R LIII.

JAMES MAYNARD, ESQ.

T O

HENRY CAREY, ESQ.

SEPTEMBER 3.

YOUR silence, my dear kinsman, afflicts me. As I am not accustomed to it, I cannot but suppose it to be owing to some secret grief, which preys upon your spirits. Certainly, you cannot so far forget yourself, as to indulge and foster in your bosom, a strange passion for an object, that you never but once set your eyes upon, and possibly may never in your life time behold again. I doubted not, but ~~that~~ the good company and pleasure, you enjoyed at Neville-Place, would banish all such ideas from your mind, instead of which, I fear the contrary is the case. If I have not conjectured aright, tell me so; confide in me, my good nephew, that I may have

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have it in my power the more effectually to serve you. You may be sure, at least, that I, of all mankind, will be the last to abuse the confidence of a near and dear relation, and a friend. At any rate, let me hear from you. It would be unkind to suppose that your silence had not a cause ; whatever that cause then may be, certainly you cannot run the risk of injuring yourself, by communicating it to

Your affectionate kinsman,

JAMES MAYNARD.

LETTER.

L E T T E R L I V .

S I R J O H N N E V I L L E ,

T O

M R S . C L I F F O R D .

S E P T E M B E R 4 .

I Do not know, madam, how I shall address you upon a circumstance which so nearly concerns us both; *you*, as Miss Emily is your relation, *I*, as she was my guest. But long prefaces, to matters of this nature, are tedious, as they are useless. I am sorry to inform you, that this young lady has suddenly disappeared, and if she has not returned to you, (which I suppose not to be the case) she is gone, no ~~one~~ knows whither. I have a hundred suspicions, indeed, but I cannot find any thing that amounts to a proof. I can only inform you, that Mr. Carey, a gentleman for whom I ~~entertained the~~ highest regard, departed ~~also~~ on the same day. Various
messengers

236 THE EMBARRASSED LOVERS.

messengers have been dispatched, but none of them could bring tidings of either. I therefore thought it proper, to send you the earliest account of this matter, that you may take such measures as you think most proper, in an affair of such an alarming nature, and you may depend that nothing will be omitted in this case, by, madam,

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN NEVILLE.

LETTER

L E T T E R LV.

M R S. C L I F F O R D,

T O

S I R J O H N N E V I L L E.

S E P T E M B E R 10.

YOUR letter, Sir John, contains what is indeed alarming. The education given to the Miss Cliffords, was managed in such a manner, that I thought proper to leave them to themselves, as not apprehending, that I had any thing to fear from such a conduct. It is impossible to express my concern,* for the mistake which, I fear, I have in this respect committed. I have seen nothing of Emily, since she had the honour of becoming your guest; and what afflicts me still more, is, that ~~Miss~~ Isabella is at present absent, ~~from~~ whom alone I could expect to hear any thing that might throw the
least

least light upon the affair. I cannot but acknowledge myself greatly obliged to you, Sir John, for the early notice you have given me, of an affair, which it was out of your power to prevent. You need not doubt, of my taking the most proper methods, to come at the source of this accident. In the mean time, I have the most grateful sense of your conduct, and am, with great regard, sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

MARY CLIFFORD.

